Erap in Laguna jail: 'Struggle has just begun'

STORY ON PAGE A2

Edsa reclaimed by Edsa II forces

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA
AND CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA

A WELL-SCRUBBED Edsa Shrine was the site of the "most significant Labor Day ever in Philippine history" as religious and militant groups yesterday returned to the scene of the triumph of Edsa II.

EDSA/ A7

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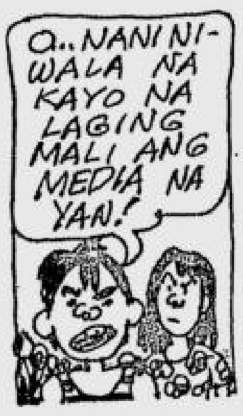
Erap mob shames newspapers

BY B. RIVERA

SUPPORTERS of ousted leader Joseph Estrada may be on the run, but not after making their stron-

ERAP/ A21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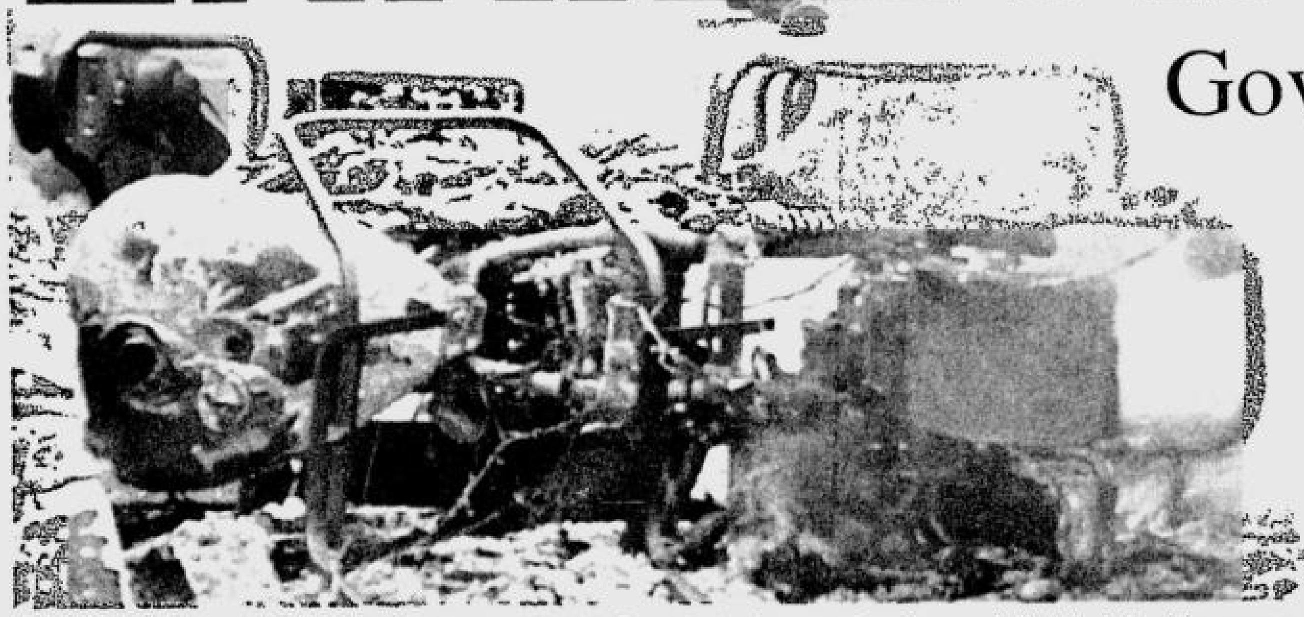
ENRILE ARRESTED



AFTER the fall of the columns of rage that stormed Malacañang, Recto Avenue where they made their last stand, is a scene of devastation. *(More photos on Page A20.)*

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

Gov't cracks down on 'plotters'

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND ARMAND NOCUM

REELECTIONIST Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was among the first to be arrested as the government went after the alleged instigators of the violent early-morning siege of Malacañang yesterday.

Enrile was awaiting the arresting team when picked up in his house in Dasmariñas Village, Makati City, at around 3 p.m. by authorities led by Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, chief of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group.

He was taken to Camp Crame accompanied by his family.

He is one of 11 persons suspected by the Department of Justice of inciting to sedition and who are now on the hold-departure list.

In a surprise announcement, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he was "studying" the possibility of putting Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago "under the witness protection program" to allow her to testify against her colleagues in the Senate who were among the supposed instigators.

"I'll be very happy to have her as a state witness," Perez said of Santiago, who herself had made inflammatory speeches before the loyalist crowd massed at Edsa.

At press time, Berroya and his men were hunting down reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan, ex-PNP chief Panfilo Lacson and the rest—former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda, Brig. Gen. Jake Malajacan, Senior Superintendents

ENRILE/ A21

'Rebellion' declaration raises alarm

BY DONNA CUETO,
MARK ISAIAH DAVID AND CARLITO PABLO

HOURS after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a "state of rebellion" in Metro Manila to justify calling out the military to quell the uprising of pro-Estrada demonstrators, most Filipinos were still trying to figure out what the declaration meant.

But many oppositionists, lawyers, human rights groups and even pro-administration legislators were alarmed by the implications and expressed fears that martial law could not be far away.

The most chilling statement came from Armed

REBELLION/ A21

"PLEASE stop!" this demonstrator begs the armed forces in full battle gear. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

No Erap ally accepts responsibility for Malacañang attack

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

NO ONE among Joseph Estrada's allies is claiming responsibility for his loyalists' bloody attack on Malacañang yesterday.

Even JV Ejercito, one of his sons, has denied involvement, telling GMA-7 in Taglish: "This is a spontaneous gathering, there were no leaders. If just one person agitates the crowd, the rest will follow because they are emotional. I did my part in pacifying them."

He shifted the blame to the administration for allegedly oppressing his family.

Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM) candidates Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan denied that they had instigated the attack.

LDP president and senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara said he had tried to defuse the tension by asking the loyalists massed at Edsa to "go home."

Enrile claimed that he tried to dissuade the protest "leaders" when

NO ERAP/ A5

6 dead, 113 hurt in 12-hour battle of Mendiola

BY JEROME ANING,
ARMAND N. NOCUM AND
DAVE VERIDIANO

RUNNING battles between government forces and supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada, who stormed the Malacañang gates at dawn yesterday, lasted for more than 12 hours, leaving two policemen and four demonstrators dead. About a hundred people, including a dozen policemen, were injured in the clashes.

Rioters set fire to a police car and a police motorcycle, three pickups owned by a television station, a car, construction equipment and a traffic police outpost along the length of Mendiola Street.

Red Cross vans were also attacked and pelted with rocks as they advanced to retrieve fallen police and rioters.

The rioters, many of them armed with crude weapons, played a deadly cat-and-mouse game with riot police firing teargas under the fierce midday sun.

The violent street clashes prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to place Metro Manila under a state of rebellion. *(See story on this page.)*

Some of the protesters managed to come a few meters away from Malacañang before they were dispersed.

The street had to be cleared of rioters at all costs because "this is like an

3 DEAD/ A19

BLOODY end for an Estrada supporter; a colleague reaches out to him.

AP

Estrada loyalists overwhelm cops on way to Palace

BY ALCUIN PAPA,
DAVE VERIDIANO
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SHEER number of supporters of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada who marched on the Palace before dawn yesterday overwhelmed the paltry force of police guarding the seat of power.

Despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's threat to "crush" them, 20,000 to 30,000 demonstrators yesterday overran barricades along the route from the Edsa Shrine to Malacañang, even though anti-riot police along the way put up a fight that killed at least two.

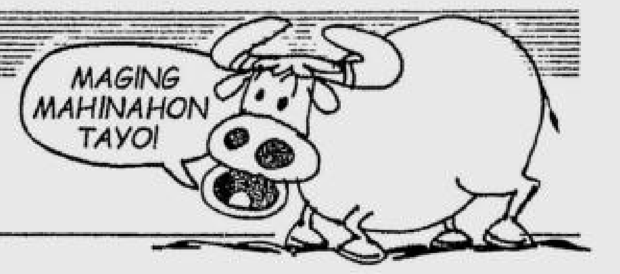
By the time the sea of marchers reached J.P. Laurel Street in Manila, three military trucks blocked

ESTRADA/ A21

REUTERS

COP hangs on to his revolver shortly before he was beaten to death by Estrada supporters in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Second FRONT PAGE



Ex-president still in Erap country

FORT STO. DOMINGO, Santa Rosa, Laguna—Even in this isolated, heavily guarded training camp where an ousted president and his son are being detained, authorities still have to contend with diehard supporters of Joseph Estrada.

Only 200 meters from the gates of the camp, a small group of fanatical Estrada supporters was gathering yesterday, apparently brought there by a mayoral candidate of Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

And it looks like authorities will have a hard time dispersing this crowd as most of them are residents of the barangay that hosts this police camp.

Unconfirmed reports said that several vehicles carrying Estrada supporters on their way to the camp had been turned back at various checkpoints between Alabang and Laguna province.

The 40 to 50 people who were at the camp's entrance earlier yesterday said they intended to hold a vigil last night, at a spot well within sight of the camp's sentries.

"We're not violent, we're not activists. We're just here to give him moral support," said Nestor Baybay, a retired Army colonel who is the PMP candidate for mayor of Sta. Rosa.

Col. Jovito Palparan of the Army's Task Force Banahaw under the Southern Luzon Command said he and his men who are posted at the fort's gate have been instructed to disperse any "pro- or anti-Estrada groupings within the perimeter."

But they seemed to be allowing residents to freely roam the main entrance gate area.

At noon yesterday, a group of about 20 locals assembled at the intended place of vigil and chanted pro-Estrada slogans for the benefit of the press cameras.

But by evening, no pro-Estrada vigil had started and the area around the camp was generally peaceful. *Volt Contreras*

Erap: Struggle has just begun

FORT STO. DOMINGO, Sta. Rosa, Laguna—The first thing that the prisoner asked for was that he be allowed to be interviewed and to speak publicly.

Without waiting for permission, however, indicted former President Joseph Estrada, who was transferred to new prison quarters at this police training camp early yesterday following bloody riots by his supporters, faxed a statement to the media in Manila in which he urged his followers to refrain from violence.

But he blamed his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, for the bloodshed and said "the struggle has just begun."

"I earnestly call on our people today for calm and sobriety and to exercise restraint in the face of the grave crisis facing our nation today," the jailed ex-president said in the statement.

"I am certain that we are fighting for a just cause, but we must pursue this through peaceful and non-violent means," he said.

Authorities decided to fly the imprisoned ex-president by helicopter to this rural training camp early yesterday after his rioting followers stormed Malacañang, resulting in the death of three people and injury to many others.

Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza said the transfer was made necessary because there was "imminent danger" to Estrada's life.

"The Estrada loyalists were planning to storm the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. We did not want anything to happen to Mr. Estrada's security. We want him fully secured. Thus, the decision to transfer him," Mendoza said.

'Full discretion'

Mendoza who was given "full discretion" by the Sandiganbayan to decide when to transfer the prisoner, said he informed the ex-president's family and his lawyers an hour before the transfer.

The transfer was made at 5:40 a.m. at about the same time that police were trying to repulse the siege at Malacañang.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag flew in one helicopter with Estrada, former first lady Luisa Ejercito and police Director Thompson C. Lantion. Jinggoy flew in another helicopter with his wife and Chief Supt. Lucas Managuelod. A third helicopter served as backup.

Ronaldo Puno, Estrada's interior secretary who was one of the first of his jail visitors yesterday, said Estrada had asked if the government would allow him to be interviewed.

Earlier yesterday, Saguisag said the ex-president's advisers wanted to arrange a taped interview so the ex-president could help pacify his violent supporters.

Asked about Estrada's medical condition, Puno who stayed for four hours, said the deposed president had complained of pain in his arthritic knee.

"He's not really complaining but neither is he happy," he said.

He said Estrada was "surprised" to have been transferred to this camp as he had been told that his executive checkup at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center would end today, Puno said.

He and his son, Jinggoy, his co-accused in non-bailable plunder charges, are now incarcerated in a specially built detention cell, a two-bedroom bungalow which comes with all the middle-class comforts.

Extended visiting hours

Estrada has asked for "extended visiting hours" for his immediate family members. Estrada and his son are allowed four visitors at a time from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jinggoy told reporters by telephone after arriving here that they were under heavy security and that he and his father were closely monitoring developments in Manila by television and radio.

He called for sobriety among the supporters of Estrada and restraint on the part of government security forces

"They must not open fire," Jinggoy said, describing the former leader's followers as "defenseless."

Saguisag said Estrada underwent a routine medical checkup at the detention cell. His blood pressure was 120/70. He also had a light breakfast ordered from a nearby fastfood chain.

FORMER Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, Estrada's lawyer, walks out of Fort Sto. Domingo.

"He looks very tired, he's dizzy because it looks like they're toying with him. He was made to transfer at such an unholy hour," Saguisag said.

Saguisag described Estrada's mood with an old Filipino saying. "*Magloko ka na sa lasing, 'wag lang sa bagong gising* (You can tease a drunk but never someone who's just awakened)."

He said Estrada was concerned about the violence in Malacañang and was just asking that government "listen to the pleas of the poor."

"He is asking absolutely nothing for himself. He wants a win-win solution. He shares the concern of (President Macapagal-Arroyo) over the escalating violence," Saguisag said of his client. *Reports from Volt Contreras and Christine Herrera, Metro Manila, and Dennis Maliwanag and Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, with Inquirer wires*

Erap papers show he was set to return to Palace

BY A. NOCUM

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada drafted a proclamation to pave the way for his return to power had his supporters succeeded in driving President Macapagal-Arroyo out of Malacañang yesterday.

Malacañang said documents found in Estrada's hospital room showed that he and his political allies were the ones who instigated the pro-Estrada demonstrators' attack on the Palace and that he had been preparing for his return to the presidency.

In a hastily called press briefing at the height of the assault on Malacañang, Ms Macapagal said they found such letter in Estrada's room at the Veterans Medical Center where he was undergoing medical checkup.

"We saw documents that he left at the Veterans Hospital, which he was to sign, declaring he was returning from his leave of absence," the President said.

Estrada had maintained that he was just on leave from the presidency and that Ms Macapagal was just acting president. But she said this move is legally untenable.

'This cannot happen because the Supreme Court said that I am the legitimate President," she said.

Estrada reportedly left behind the draft proclamation and other papers when he was made to leave the hospital in haste due to reports that his supporters were on their way to the hospital to free him.

The former president was immediately transferred to a specially made prison facility at Fort Domingo in Laguna.

Executive Secretary Renato Corona said the draft proclamation would show that the actions of people behind the Edsa rally and the attack on the Palace were well coordinated.

He cited the "the incendiary and inflammatory" speeches claiming that Estrada was still President and that he should be returned to his post.

The attack on the Palace yesterday morning, he said, "completes the picture" in the alleged plot.

But he clarified that the act of drafting the proclamation was not a criminal offense.

For those behind the alleged plot, he said the evidence would be the " film clips, the footages of the speeches and those who rode on this issue."

He said the draft proclamation was not enough basis to charge him.

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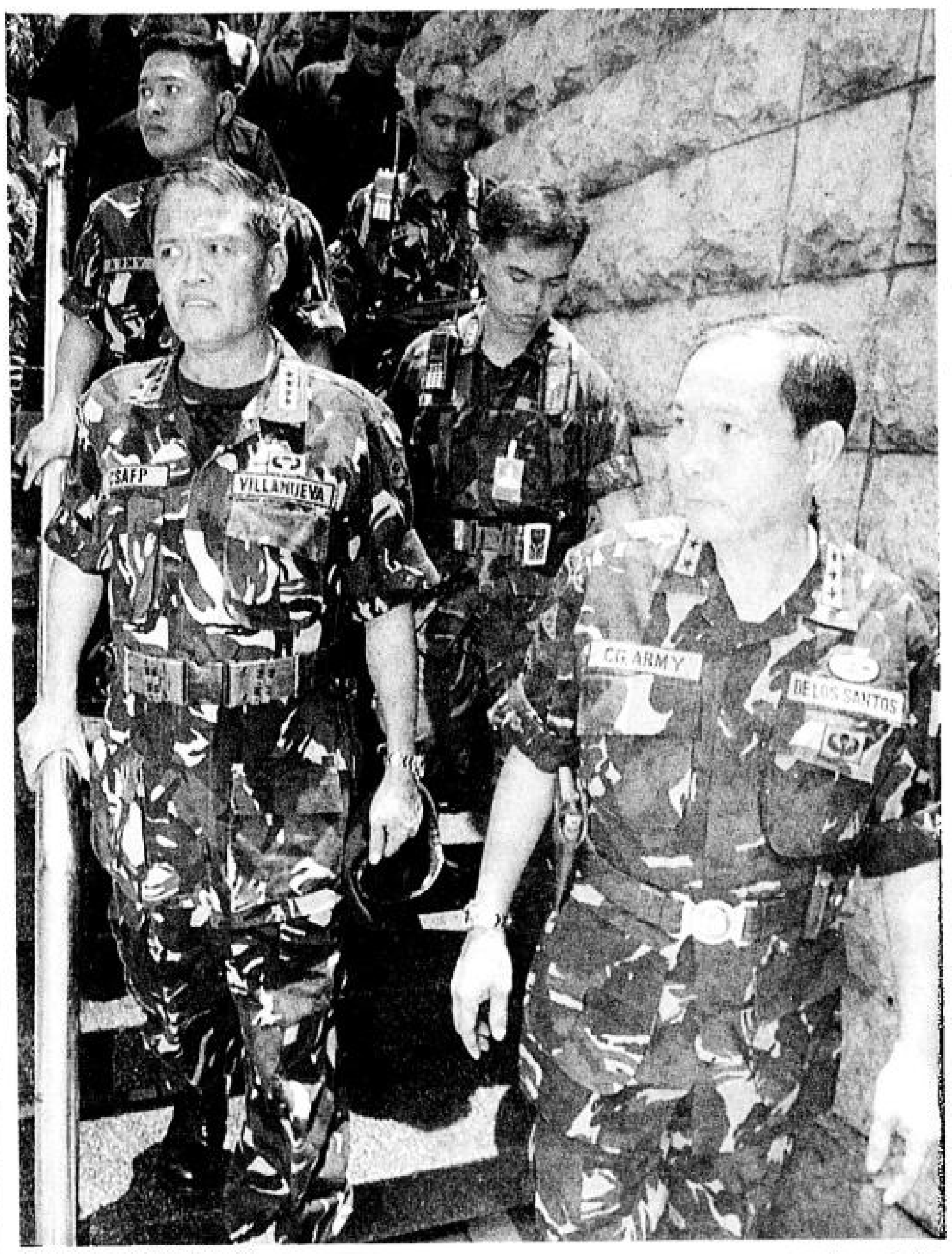

SHRINE RETAKEN ROGER MARGALLO

Armed Forces chief of staff Diomedio Villanueva (left) and Army chief Jaime de los Santos inspect the Edsa Shrine after it was "liberated" from pro-Estrada protesters early yesterday. The shrine was cleaned up in time for yesterday's Labor Day celebration and Mass celebrated by Jaime Cardinal Sin attended by militants and other participants of last January's Edsa 2.

PPC bets return to Metro

By J. L. Javellana

IN THE HOMESTRETCH of the campaign for the May 14 elections, the administration-backed People Power Coalition cancelled all its provincial sorties and has asked all its 13 candidates to stay put in Metro Manila.

"They should all be available here in Metro Manila to help stabilize the situation," PPC national campaign director Paul Aquino told the INQUIRER on the phone.

Aquino, brother-in-law of former President Corazon Aquino, said the PPC did not want to be accused of "insensitivity" to the need to help the Macapagal administration restore public order after pro-Estrada protests were quelled.

The PPC candidates hurriedly returned to Manila from Bicol the other night and held an emergency meeting yesterday morning. They decided to join the civil society and multisectoral groups in retaking the Edsa Shrine, according to PPC image consultant Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara.

Cancelled was the penultimate leg of the PPC's 13-day "victory run" across the country which began on April 23 in Mindanao. The PPC was slated to be in Tarlac yesterday afternoon and onto other provinces in Northern Luzon up to May 6.

A big rally was supposed to be held last night in Tarlac with the President and Ms Aquino.

The PPC candidates appealed to the electorate to give a vote of confidence to the administration by voting for all her senatorial candidates.

"It is crucial because it will set a clear message from the people to reject Estrada and his allies," Drilon said.

Drilon expressed optimism that the successful and peaceful handling of the pro-Estrada protests would boost the chances of a 13-0 sweep for the PPC.

"The attack of Malacañang by the pro-Erap group was the turning point. And what they did is negative to the (Puwersa ng Masa) candidates. I think the people will show their disapproval (of the opposition) candidates in the ballot," Drilon said.

Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, another PPC candidate, said the victory of Ms Macapagal against the pro-Estrada forces would be complete if the electorate will give her an overwhelming majority in the Senate.

US, British back Gloria

THE UNITED States and British governments have reaffirmed their support for the Macapagal-Arroyo administration even as they expressed hope that the current political crisis in the three-month-old administration be resolved peacefully.

From Tokyo, Japan urged the government to restore stability as violent protests over the arrest of deposed Joseph Estrada claimed the lives of at least two policemen and one demonstrator.

"Japan urges the government of the Philippines to restore stability," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told a regular news conference.

"Japan is carefully watching the development of the situation in the Philippines. We cannot comment any further but what we can say is restore stability as soon as possible," Fukuda said.

The two policemen and the demonstrator were killed when Estrada supporters stormed Malacañang early yesterday, demanding the removal of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President declared a "state of rebellion" in metropolitan Manila, which her spokesman said would allow her to use special powers to quell unrest.

"We are following the developments closely," the US Embassy in Manila said in a statement.

"We urge that all sides express their views peacefully, respect the rule of law and let the judicial process take its course," the statement added.

Rocky Nazareno with a report from AFP

Court nixes bid to reset San Miguel election

A MANDALUYONG court has denied the petition of the Government Service and Insurance System to postpone the stockholders' meeting tomorrow of the San Miguel Corp.

The GSIS petition also sought to reopen the nomination for the board of directors in the election.

In a five-page decision on Monday, the Regional Trial Court Branch 214 ruled that while the GSIS as a stockholder has the right to nominate its candidates to the SMC board and to vote the shares it holds, these rights must be exercised in accordance with the by-laws of the company.

Under SMC's by-laws, the deadline for the nomination of directors was on Jan. 20, 2001.

The court noted that even if an earlier or later date may be fixed, this authority rests exclusively on the board.

With the court's ruling, Francis H. Jardeleza, SMC corporate secretary, announced that the San Miguel stockholders' meeting will proceed as scheduled tomorrow.

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MODERN SLAVERY

'Edsa III' should jolt gov't, labor, Church to act now

BY RAMON T. JIMENEZ

(Last of two parts)

Editor's Note: The author, a noted labor lawyer, is retired from active practice. He was formerly president of the Philippine Industrial Relations Society, which is affiliated with the International Industrial Relations Association. He has handled cases and causes on behalf of management and on behalf of workers' groups. He has set up the Leviticus Foundation dedicated to researching the state of the common workers.

FAITHFUL to the mandates of the biblical Leviticus, the Jubilee Year themes carried included the "liberation of slaves." With the Jubilee Year long over, the Church is now challenged to go well beyond the gestures of the Jubilee song and intensify its efforts to take the cudgels for the common workers, especially in the light of acutely worsening economic conditions.

I say intensify efforts because there really have been some laudable efforts toward faithfully reflecting in the policies and behavior of the Church's hierarchy and laity the mandates of PCP-II.

In 1995, the National Secretariat for Social Action of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (NASSA-CBCP) spearheaded the publication of a labor catechism. But how that effort was somewhat ignored by bishops in the dioceses, with copies that had gathered dust in their social action centers, is a different sorry story altogether.

Modern-day slaves

How these workers, including some Church employees, can remain modern-day slaves in this post-Jubilee period is deserving of condemnation as immoral and obscene. A Church that is vigilant about what kind of movies we are watching should be more vigilant about what kind of lives we are living.

It's time the Church take seriously, with definitive and adequately budgeted programs, the more difficult challenge to persuade Catholic employers to always keep in mind—between Sundays—the Gospel mandate about the least of our brethren, and start paying the minimum wage and strive to give the family living wage following Cardinal Sin's pronouncements. That would be something significant to show for more than 400 years of work in this "only Christian country" in Asia.

GMA's thrusts

Obviously, policies and actions under past administrations did not address SME workers effectively to protect and uplift them. Some laws are obsolete; others are extremely difficult to monitor and enforce. Government has so far missed out on the opportunities to raise the SMEs to the level of forming at least part of the backbone of the economy.

The administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo has the opportunity to break with the past and present patterns. In her inaugural speech last Jan. 20, the President asserted: "We must be bold in our national ambitions, so that our challenge must be that within this decade, we will win the fight against poverty."

The President's words found immediate response in what SGV founder, Washington Sycip, said at the Philippine Forum II at Clark on the very same day of her inauguration: "It is about time we get down to work, strive for a transformation of our society and focus sharply on one objective: The reduction of poverty."

Considering her background as an economist, the President is expected to recognize that SMEs hold the key to economic growth, as affirmed by a consensus of representatives of rich and poor member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) in a fairly recent two-day conference in Manila.

To win the fight against poverty, the government has to energize and protect both the employers and the employees in the SMEs for these establishments to play their role in stable economic upliftment.

The President could actually start up the process with concrete steps such as issuing directives to the appropriate agencies to prepare the ground for formulation, enactment and effective implementation of government policy on workers in SMEs, as part of overall policies and programs on labor, development and poverty eradication.

Political will

Specifically, the President may direct the agencies to:

- Prepare, on the basis of existing data, a report on the conditions of SMEs, including information in possession of private sector and civil society organizations.
- Collate all laws affecting compensation and benefits for SME workers, and prepare an analysis of factors for their enforcement or lack of enforcement.
- Conduct consultations with all interested parties toward the formulation of an executive order and/or an administration bill that would constitute an effective state/government policy for the protection and upliftment of SME workers, including possible ways for encouraging and/or giving incentives to SMEs to comply with existing minimum wage and benefits laws and even to afford giving to each worker a "family living wage."
- Prepare a full report on compliance with above instructions at least a week before the delivery of the State of the Nation Address in July 2001.

Issuance of such directives and full compliance with them will go a long way in determining whether or not we can achieve in this decade what the President said we should.

Can the SME workers expect any significant upliftment in their lives, or even just some alleviation from their continuing enslavement, under the Macapagal administration? Or, are we going to hear more vehement denials or lame excuses from government?

Ultimately it boils down to political will. It remains to be seen whether or not her administration has it.

ILO program

The current program of the International Labor Organization, as adopted in its 87th session in 1999, focuses on decent work. Its mission is "to improve the situation of human beings in the world of work."

This mission finds resonance in the widespread preoccupation of people, "at times of great change, to find sustainable opportunities for decent work."

The primary goal of the ILO today, and its main purpose, is "to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity."

Too bad, the SME workers in the Philippines would instinctively conclude that these words are not even meant to affect them. To the unionized workers, to the employees of the big firms, maybe. But not them.

And yet, while acknowledging its own shortcomings in the past owing to its history, the ILO has now declared that it is concerned with all workers. Yes, including SME workers in the Philippines.

Let me go back to my opening question, "Who will take the cudgels for the SME workers, the majority of our country's wage-earners?"

Let us not disappoint Emil, Trining and their kind much longer with hollow answers. Let our answers and actions prove that the time for excuses, for "ifs and buts," for finger-pointing, is over. "Edsa III" should jolt government, big labor and the Church to act now.

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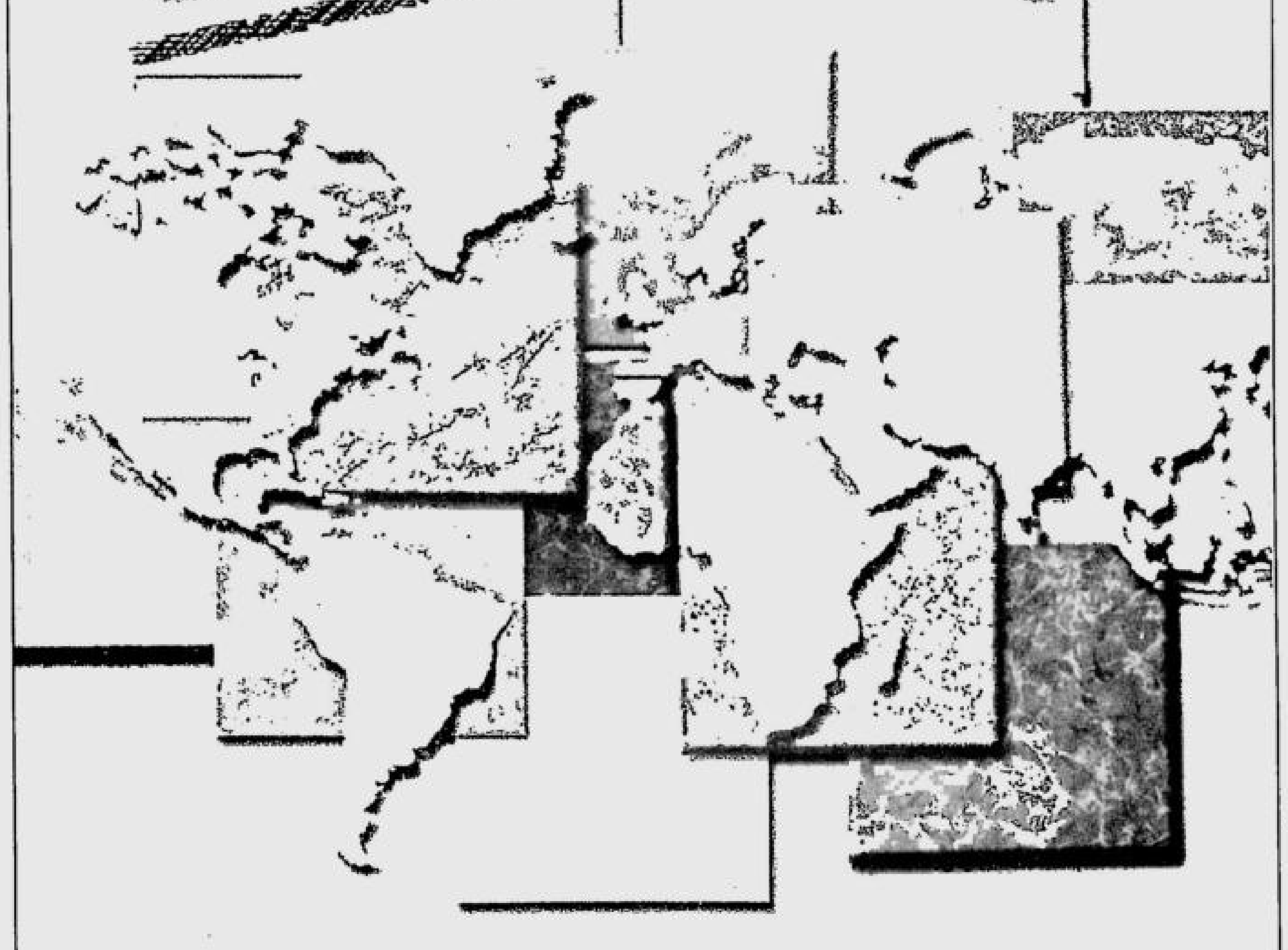

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No Erap ally owns responsibility for Malacañang attack

(From page A1)

he learned of the plan to attack Malacañang at around 2 a.m. yesterday.

He said they did not heed him "because I'm not their leader, I was invited as a guest."

But he refused to say who the "leaders" were.

Honasan also denied having urged the crowd at Edsa to march on Malacañang.

"I deny any involvement (in the plan) to march to Malacañang or to overthrow the government. I categorically deny any involvement in any destabilization effort, in any coup attempt," Honasan said.

Angara said they had "nothing to do with people going to Malacañang."

"We're not the organizers of the rally. We're not the leaders," he said.

When a reporter pointed out that they seemed to be "abandoning" the Estrada's supporters and "washing (their) hands" of the entire affair, Angara retorted: "That's literally jumping to conclusion."

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has an altogether different position.

During the LDP-PnM press conference at the Club Filipino yesterday, she walked out in a huff after Angara condemned the storming of Malacañang.

Before she left, Santiago continued to defend the loyalist rallies' supposed objective of returning Estrada to Malacañang.

Her husband, former Interior Undersecretary Narciso "Jun" Santiago, earlier told GMA-7 that the senator did not know of the plan to attack Malacañang.

Ejercito challenged those accusing him of instigating the violent action to review the tapes of the loyalist rallies.

He said he read a message from his father Monday night wherein the ex-president said he would not want to see his supporters hurt.

LDP-PnM senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson, former chief of the Philippine National Police, did not show up at the press conference.

But in a statement he urged Estrada's supporters "to go back to their homes and extinguish the hatred in their heart."

At the same press conference, LDP secretary general and reelectionist Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino claimed that "we were never part of the demonstrations."

"They invited us to say a few words," said Aquino, who was seen almost daily at the loyalist rallies.

He reiterated Ejercito's oft-repeated statement that they could not stop the "restless" crowd from charging.

"They won't listen to us anymore. If you have a group like that, they decide the course of action no matter what Angara is saying. Some were bent on going (to Malacañang)," Aquino said.

But even as they claimed that they were not the "leaders" of the loyalist protests, Enrile later disclosed that he was part of the panel "designated by Estrada" to "negotiate" with the Macapagal administration.

The other negotiators, he said, were former Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda, General Santos City Mayor Adelbert Antonino and Honasan.

Enrile said the administration panel was composed of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

He said there had been "efforts" by the government "to dialogue, to negotiate with us" Sunday night, but that "the panel never came."

Enrile said Honasan had acted as their "liaison" with Reyes.

But Honasan hastily explained that "nothing substantial happened."

He said he only met with Reyes once on Saturday afternoon, in a "neutral place."

"We don't even call it negotiation, just a dialogue," he said, adding that they were trying to arrange a "face to face meeting" between Estrada and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Honasan also did not say what the "talking points" were, claiming that the talks were to "lay the ground work for other meetings."

Enrile and Honasan said they were not guilty of sedition, and challenged the government to arrest them.

"I'm ready to be arrested. I'm ready to invoke my constitutional rights," said Honasan.

"I am not anywhere near any group that had any intention of grabbing power. I challenge them to bring out any men in uniform, whether in the military or the police, that I approached to undermine the stability of the government," Enrile said.

He added: "I've never called for an overthrow of the Arroyo government. (What I said was for Gloria to step down), in the same way (that they said) 'Erap resign' at Edsa II. It has become fashionable."

Enrile also denied that he had conspired with Honasan and Lacson to stage a coup.

Angara said he had called the press conference to announce the "official" party position in order to belie reports that the Estrada camp was split on the issue of attacking Malacañang.

"We condemn the violence that took place on Mendiola. We would like to make a call to the people to please withdraw and go home because you've achieved what you wanted. You've shown the world that you have legitimate sentiments.

"But the end will no longer be served by the application of violence," he said.

Angara said what had happened at Mendiola was a "dishonor" to Filipinos. Those who showed up at the press conference were Angara, Enrile, Honasan, Santiago, Ricardo Puno, Madrigal, Tamano and Aquino.

Santiago's walkout caught even her fellow candidates by surprise. On her way out, she snubbed Angara and Enrile and excused herself to Aquino. *With reports from Leila Salaverria and Irene Andrea C. Perez*

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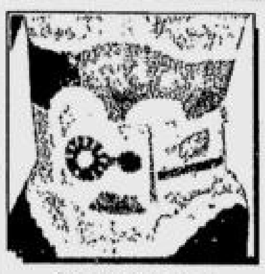

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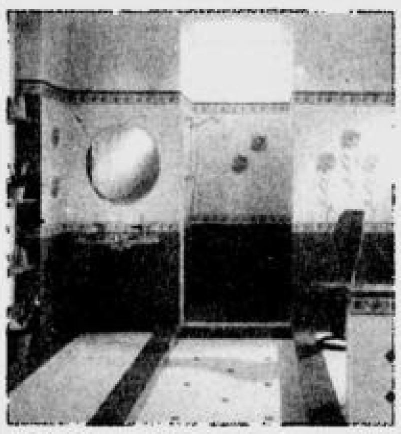

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RP, other foreign maids protest maltreatment in HK

HONG KONG—About 150 Asian domestic helpers marched to government headquarters Tuesday to protest what they call unfair treatment in affluent Hong Kong.

Highlighting their plight, the migrants from Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand wore headbands and carried banners reading, "Say no to class discrimination," and "Abolish the two-week rule."

The government introduced the so-called "two-week rule" in April 1987 to restrict maids from changing employers within the first two years of their work contract and allowing them to remain in Hong Kong for a limit of two weeks once the contract expired.

"The two-week rule has already been placing many of our fellow migrant workers in a more miserable situation. They are forced to accept lower wages, longer working hours, inhumane treatment and discrimination because of the fear of losing their jobs," said Eman Villanueva, secretary general of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

Fearing that they may not able to find another job within two weeks and face immediate deportation, many maids are afraid to complain of any ill-treatment such as underpayment and physical assault by employers, said Villanueva, 28, and originally from Manila.

The rule, which does not apply to foreign professionals in Hong Kong but only to low-wage groups like domestic helpers, is "absolutely a form of class discrimination," said Lee Cheuk-yan, a Hong Kong lawmaker.

The maids earn $471 per month and the government decided in February to maintain a pay freeze for 2001, two years after the minimum salary was cut from $495 during the Asian financial crisis, according to the Filipino organization.

Narayan Bhandari, from Kavre in Nepal, said some Nepali maids get as little as $128 per month.

"The employers shout at us all the time and don't give us any rest," said Bungon Tamasorn, 38, who came from Chiang Rai in northern Thailand and has worked in Hong Kong for five years.

"Even when we are in the toilet, they will shout: What the hell are you doing in the toilet? Are you sleeping in the toilet?" said Nishadi Werapitiya, from Kandy in Sri Lanka.

According to the Asian Migrants Coordinating Body, there are around 200,000 foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

A government spokeswoman did not immediately return a reporter's call seeking reaction. AP

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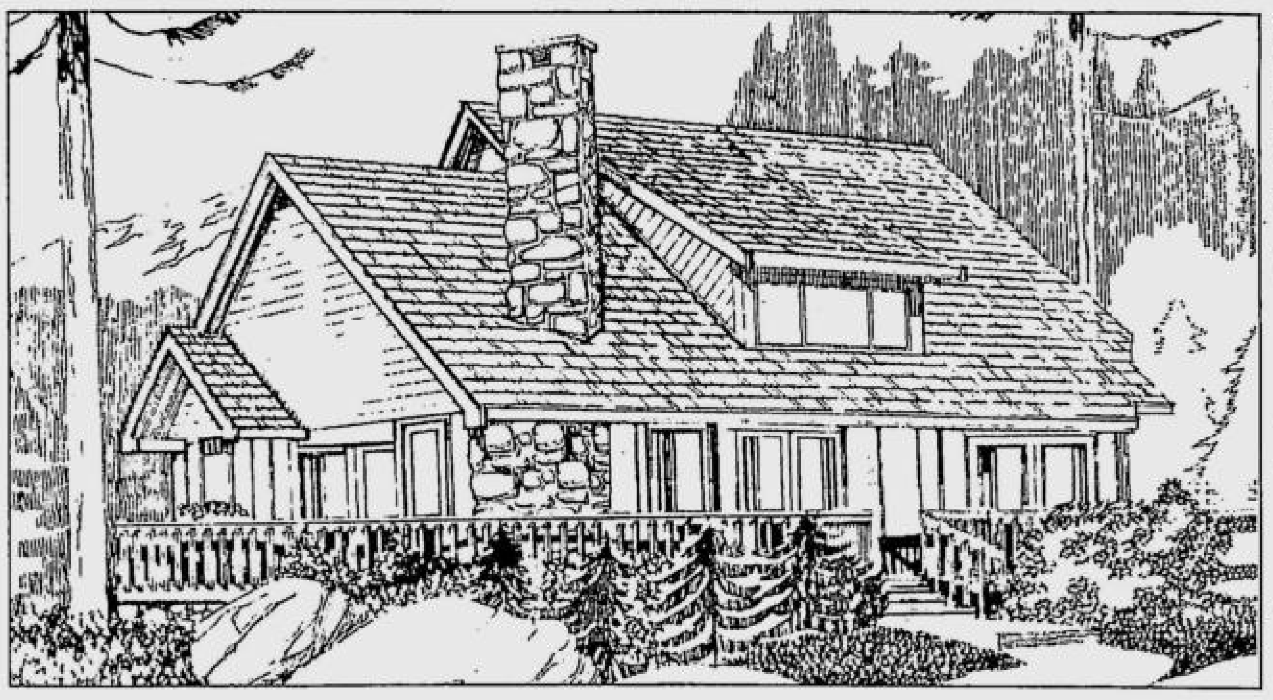

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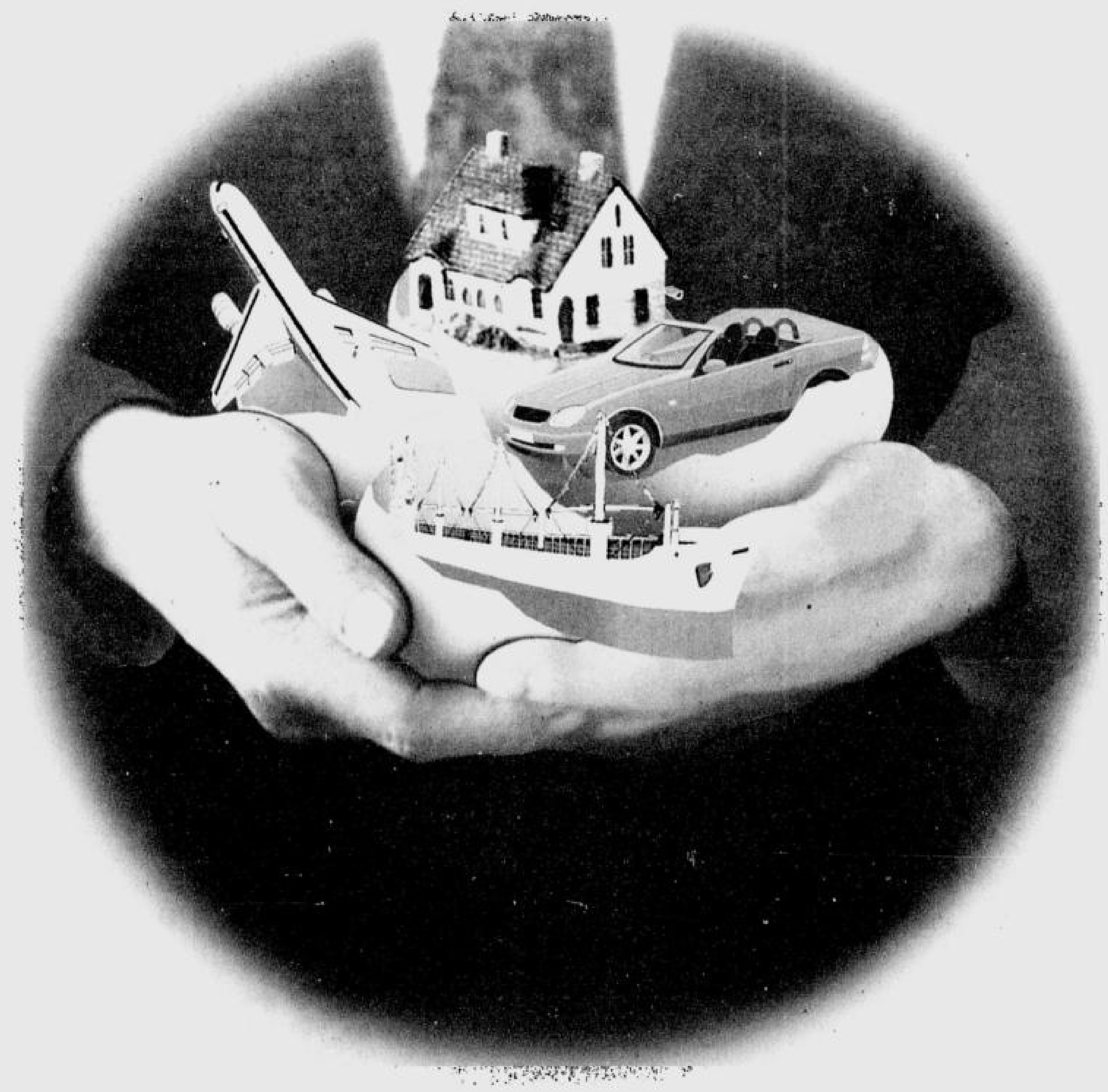

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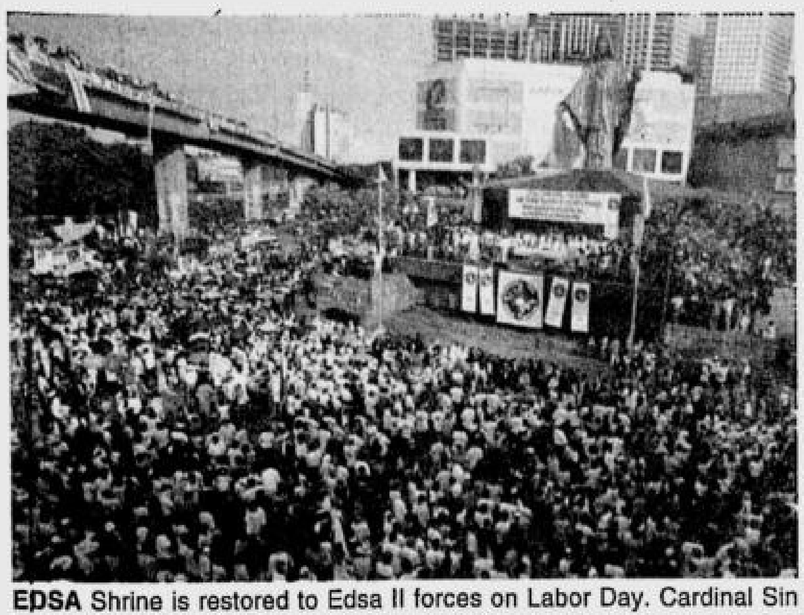

EDSA Shrine is restored to Edsa II forces on Labor Day. Cardinal Sin celebrates a Mass of thanksgiving on Tuesday. ROGER MARGALLO

Edsa reclaimed by Edsa II forces

(From page A1)

The shrine, according to Church authorities had been "desecrated" by supporters of the ousted leader Joseph Estrada, who had occupied it since Wednesday night.

The archbishop of Manila, Jaime Cardinal Sin, said a thanksgiving Mass for the return of the Shrine.

"This is a holy place. This is the place of God. This is the place of the people," said Couples for Christ (CFC) international director Frank Padilla, who supervised the cleanup at the Shrine.

It is not likely that the Estrada followers will return to the Shrine anytime soon. The military has created a thousand-strong force to secure the Shrine.

Dubbed Task Force Edsa Shrine, it is led by the commanding general of the Philippine Army, Lt.Gen. Jaime delos Santos.

"This is the most significant Labor Day ever in Philippine history in the sense that the events of the day proved that the working class and other marginalized sectors of the country play very important roles in our society in defense of the rule of law,"said Akbayan president Joel Rocamora.

Sight to see

CFC members, nuns and priests side by side with tough military men detailed at the shrine cleaned up the "mess" left behind by the Estrada followers.

They brought their own brooms, towels, sponge and scrubs while some volunteers from the Filipino-Chinese community and metro mayors' offices provided the hose to wash the filth from the ground.

Chlorine was used to disinfect the premises of the Shrine, site of two successful People Power revolts, which had been declared sacred ground by the Vatican.

Senatorial candidate Solita "Mareng Winnie" Monsod was among the early birds sighted sweeping dirt at the Shrine, said the CFC.

True Edsa spirit

Msgr. Soc Villegas, Shrine rector, said strangers have been coming to share whatever they could give to the clean-up brigade, which have been up on their toes since 6 a.m. yesterday.

He cited a taxi driver who donated two plastic bags of mineral water. The man had wanted to help but could not because he had to drive the cab, Villegas said.

Another woman left a bagful of *ensaymada* for the people relentlessly scrubbing the floor of the Shrine.

"That's the real spirit of Edsa," Villegas said. "People come here without being called because this is their church."

On Saturday during a prayer vigil at the Mt.Carmel Church in Quezon City, Villegas had wept as he recounted how the Estrada crowd had "profaned" the Shrine.

"They heaped mounds of garbage, sang and danced lustfully over the Edsa shrine marker, rammed a truck into the landscape, and directed huge loudspeakers to the shrine door," Villegas recalled."

On the first day, April 25, the protesters immediately hauled down the Vatican flag and replaced it with streamers of the former president, Villegas said.

Security guards of the shrine "pleaded and wrestled" for the Church flag to be restored but to no avail.

Pictures of the "corrupt" president were also posted on the hand of the statue of Our Lady of Edsa, Villegas said.

Cursing Sin

"They stayed at the foot of the Lady, not to pray to her but to curse the Archbishop of Manila, the Church, the Filipino nation, you and me."

Dismayed over the desecration of the shrine, he told the rowdy crowd: "*Hindi na ka kayo nagpapasalamat, mumurahin nyo pa ang Arsobispo ng Maynila. Di na nga kayo nagpapasalamat, kung anu-ano pa kalapastanganan ang gagawin nyo sa pag-aaring hindi inyo?*"

In response, the protesters went over the shrine's marker and sang and danced to "obscene and lustful" tunes, Villegas said.

The marker signified that the shrine was hallowed ground.

The demonstrators then took several garbage bags and poured them out on top of the marker while those on stage cursed Cardinal Sin and the entire Catholic Church hierarchy, Villegas said.

Minutes later, some protesters rammed a passenger jeepney into the landscape and parked the vehicle on top of the marker.

Several huge loudspeakers were then placed in strategic locations at the shrine to ensure that the sound and fury of the mass action would be heard right inside the church.

"We cannot pray. We have been deprived of the peace that was ours," Villegas said.

The following day, the shrine was turned into a huge garbage depot as more protesters came marching there with streamers heckling Sin and the Macapagal administration.

So Villegas asked his staffers to clean the area.

But the rabid Estrada supporters took the collected garbage and threw them in front of the shrine, right before Villegas' eyes in an apparent move to mock him.

Disgusted, he appealed to them: "This is private property. Check City Hall and you'll see this has a land title."

"This is private property of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila. We didn't use government funds to build it, but money of the poor, donation of Catholics."

As more and more protesters gathered, Villegas feared the roof of the shrine, which was made of fiberglass, might collapse soon as plastic chips were already falling. So he sent a message telling the ralliers to dismount the stage. Told about Villegas' warning, the pro-Estrada contingent threw rubbish at their colleagues who had relayed the message.

Five days into the Edsa rally, the shrine's sophisticated split-type air-conditioning unit had been destroyed, Villegas said. Garbage had paralyzed the separate compressor, which had a steel cover, he added. ***With reports from Andrea Echavez, Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo***

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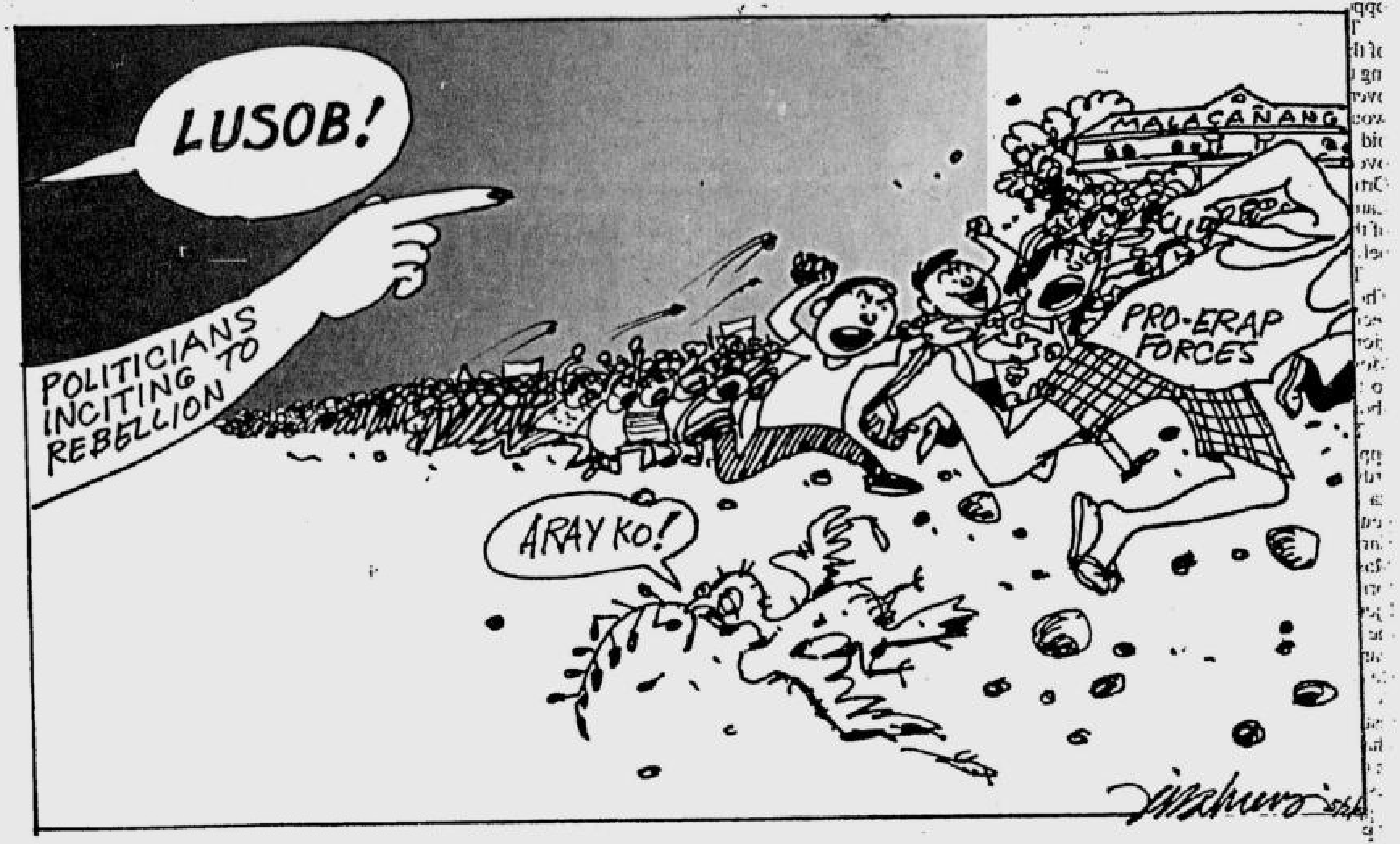

Washing of hands

EDITORIAL

YESTERDAY, just hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared that a plot to topple her government had been nipped in the bud, a giant mob was battering the gates of Malacañang and threatening to grab the seat of power. Tens of thousands of supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada who had peacefully held a non-stop rally at the Edsa Shrine for five days marched early Tuesday morning to Malacañang in a bid to restore to power their leader who is facing 13 criminal charges ranging from perjury to plunder. At mid-morning, a combined force of truncheon-wielding anti-riot police and heavily armed military troopers moved to drive them away from the Palace premises. The mob fought back with sticks and stones, but by noon government forces had taken back all roads leading to the Palace.

When the smoke cleared, three persons were dead and scores were wounded on both sides. The orgy of violence also saw several stores being looted, many windows broken and several vehicles battered and burned. At least 50 demonstrators were arrested in the course of the violent dispersal—all of them unknown. In fact, none of the prominent political personalities believed to have organized, financed or encouraged the pro-Estrada demonstrations was seen at Mendiola or J.P. Laurel Street when violence erupted. It was Estrada's loyal *masa* who took the fight to the Palace gates, it was the same *masa* that bore the brunt of government's counteraction. Now they will have to answer for the violence, the vandalism, the arson and the looting.

It must be a bitter irony for the poor who marched and fought for their idol that after allowing themselves to be used for an unworthy cause, like frustrating the administration of justice, they are now being disowned by their manipulators. Everyone in the Estrada camp who has spoken about yesterday's tragedy now lays the blame exclusively on their shoulders. Estrada's son, JV Ejercito, explained that no one could hold back his father's supporters from marching to Malacañang, or words to that effect. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said he warned the pro-Estrada demonstrators on Monday against going to Malacañang precisely to head off a bloody confrontation with government forces. In other words, the poor are solely to blame for the violence, death and destruction that happened yesterday.

And yet Enrile was caught on TV Monday night taunting the administration to carry out its threat to disperse the demonstrators at Edsa so that they would be forced to march to Malacañang. In fact, Enrile was among the five opposition leaders—the others are Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Gregorio Honasan, senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson and former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda—who plotted to seize power, according to a confidential report given to Ms Macapagal. Santiago was also heard several times agitating the Edsa crowd to do something more drastic. On the eve of the attack on Malacañang, Santiago urged the demonstrators to march to the Palace, saying they should no longer wait for the police and the military to throw in their support. Honasan was said to have been the most emphatic in arguing that the crowd be stirred up to march last Sunday night. But now that blood is on their hands, they are first to disclaim any responsibility for setting the mob off on a violent rampage.

The administration is buying none of their denials, of course. The President has declared a state of rebellion and ordered the arrest of these agitators as well as police and military officers suspected of participating in the plot to overthrow her government.

"The vandalism, robbery and injury and deaths are the work of these politicians," Ms Macapagal said. "They should be blamed for all this. They will be made to answer for these crimes," she promised.

It's about time too. These officials, particularly the three senators, have already gotten away with so many crimes against the people. Enrile has gotten away with stealing the elections—for Ferdinand Marcos in 1985 and for himself in 1995. He and Honasan were never made to answer for their involvement in several coup attempts against then President Corazon Aquino. Enrile, Honasan and Santiago were also among the 11 senators who voted to block the introduction of vital evidence against Estrada, a gross betrayal of the public interest. It would be another travesty of justice if the 50 or so demonstrators now in police hands would be jailed for what they did yesterday while these officials who instigated them to act against the government go unpunished. The administration should show firmness and decisiveness in dealing with treason or it will find itself being threatened with a coup from time to time, like the Aquino administration.

Radical changes could still save Wahid

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bhimanto Suwastoyo

JAKARTA—Although chances appear slim for Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid to avoid facing impeachment, a willingness to make radical changes could still save him from an ignominious end to his political career, analysts said Tuesday.

The lower house, the People's Representative Council (DPR), on Monday issued a second censure motion against him that accused him of violating the constitution.

It gave him one month to respond.

An unsatisfactory response would allow the DPR to hold a special session of the national assembly to call him to account, probably in August. A rejection of his account will be tantamount to an impeachment.

"What can save him is a willingness to put an effort to making fundamental changes in his style of governing and in his policies," said Bara Hasibuan, a political consultant at a private consultancy agency.

Bara, a former executive of the National Mandate Party led by Wahid's arch foe Amien Rais, said that much is needed to be done by Wahid in a short time.

"To be honest, I am skeptical he would be able to do that...he already had three months to do it, and he blew it big time," Bara said referring to the three months given by the DPR for him to respond to the first censure issued on Feb. 1.

Political analyst Andi Mallarangeng also voiced pessimism that the country's first democratically elected president could escape the special session.

"Politically, it will be very difficult for the president," Mallarangeng told the Terbit newspaper.

He said the gist of the censure motion "is a vote of no confidence," and this should be understood by the president and his supporters.

A solution to the impasse, he said, would be for the president to agree on a political compromise, to declare himself non-active and hand over the reins of government to Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, a popular candidate to replace him.

The other alternative, Mallarangeng said, would be simply to resign gracefully.

Bara also cited a change in Wahid's approach to Megawati, popularly known as Mega, as one of the main priorities for Wahid.

"He will have to try to persuade Mega to agree on some kind of political contract. If he can show he has the willingness to change, that would be possible," Bara said.

He said that one of the important fundamental changes Wahid had to make was to promote non-discriminatory law enforcement that was not only aimed "against those he perceives as his political enemies."

Critics have accused the 60-year-old Wahid of favoritism, exempting some cronies of former President Suharto from the retribution of the law by citing national interest, while forcing it on others.

Wahid, Hasibuan said, should also show that he is serious in taking charge of economic recovery.

Lawyer and rights activist Luhut Pangaribuan was slightly more optimistic over Wahid's chances.

He said that despite the brief period of time available, the president still had a chance to redeem himself.

"He has first of all to accord priority to the censure and heed its content without questioning its legal aspects," Pangaribuan said.

Wahid, responding to the first censure, had labeled it constitutionally illegal.

The lawyer, who advised Wahid in his reply to the first censure, said the president has to work hard to convince the public within a brief time that he is seriously striving to build a clean government.

The second censure accused him of violating an article of the constitution on the presidential oath of office and of transgressing a decree of the national assembly on a clean government.

Hasibuan said that the president had a reprieve of about three months, and not one month, as the special session could only be convened around August at the earliest.

"Hopefully, in three months, there will be a development in the political discourse," Pangaribuan said, adding that it could include dialogue and compromise between Wahid and the main political leaders of the country. *AFP*

Arrest them

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE BLOODY riot in Mendiola was the bullet, "Edsa III" was the gun, and Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gringo Honasan, Ping Lacson and JV Ejercito were the ones who pulled the trigger.

At the press conference in Club Filipino yesterday, the leaders of "Edsa III" would repeatedly deny they had a hand in the mayhem at Mendiola. They may not get off the hook that easily. They may not wash their hands off that blood so easily. They may not escape the hand of retribution that easily. The footage of the rally at Edsa over the last few days would show they had been inciting the crowd to storm Malacañang. They knew the power they had over that crowd. They knew the impact their inflammatory words would have on that crowd. They are responsible. They must face up to their crime.

Why they did it, why they drove the crowd like sheep to the slaughter, or like lemmings over the cliff, only their twisted brains can explain. There was no reason for it, even from the perspective of their own self-interest. Even if they succeeded in toppling President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, I keep telling interviewers over the past days, they would be left with the problem of getting past the courts and international opinion, as expressed in particular by the diplomatic community. Which made the enterprise doomed from the start. I completely believed the generals when they said they were solidly behind Ms Macapagal. What possible benefit could they derive from joining a coup that could not be legitimized, morally or legally?

I forgot that reason was never the strongest suit of Santiago, Enrile, Honasan and Lacson. In the case of Santiago, I forgot that sanity itself was never her strongest suit. Indeed, I forgot that their one common and distinguishing characteristic was greed. Well, greed and arrogance. That was how they bungled the impeachment trial—by greed and arrogance. They could have allowed the second envelope to be opened and let the legal process take its course since they had the numbers in the Senate anyway. They did not. They wanted more. They thought they could get more by grabbing it. And so they sparked Edsa II.

They could have waited at Edsa where their numbers were swelling daily like a rampaging flood and where they had found a platform from which to mount their campaign. They could have used all their campaign funds to keep the horde at the Edsa Shrine yelling their devotion to Erap, to borrow a phrase from "Jesus Christ, Superstar," and vowing to manifest it at the polls. They could have stayed at the Edsa Shrine and turned it into a symbol of the Occupation, a symbol of the poor overrunning what they had always claimed was the enclave of the rich—it was all Jaime Cardinal Sin could do to set foot on what he had always thought was his magical ground. (Is there any difference really between his concept of sacred ground and the poor's concept of a talisman? But that's another story.) They could have done all this, but they did not. They wanted more. They thought they could get more by grabbing it.

And so they killed "Edsa III."

The bloody events at Malacañang yesterday were the turning point of the tragicomic and magic-realist phenomenon that was "Edsa III." When the story of "Edsa III" is told later, the march to Malacañang will be seen as the beginning of its end. I had always thought no force could possibly meet "Edsa III" face-to-face, toe-to-toe. Not Cory Aquino and Cardinal Sin who had been desperately calling for another show of people power. Not the Left and the NGOs who had been equally desperately calling for demonstrations to counter it. Not Ms Macapagal who until Monday had disappeared again from the face of the earth, preferring to let others take the flak.

No force could possibly destroy it—except its leaders.

The riot at Mendiola has turned the tide of this war, which had been a war for hearts and minds until Enrile and company turned it into a war for turf and territory. Three things have happened as a result of it.

One, conceptually, it has shifted attention away from the plight of the huddled masses at Edsa to the conduct of their leaders. Specifically, it has shifted attention away from the understandable grievances of the huddled masses at Edsa to the incomprehensible irresponsibility of their leaders. It has dramatized what their detractors have said all along—that tragic as the exploited lot of the folk at Edsa was, even more tragic was that they would allow themselves to be duped by false prophets. Their leaders did not have their interests at heart, they were just looking out for themselves.

Two, emotionally, the riot has shifted attention away from the seemingly pitiful plight of Erap to the patently unbridled ambitions of Enrile, Santiago and company. So long as they kept to Edsa, they could always harp on how Erap had been *kinawawa*, the way the poor have been *kinawawa*. So long as they kept to Edsa, Loi and JV Ejercito could always bleed the national tear ducts dry with stories about their visits to the Veterans Hospital to cheer up a spiritually, if not physically, ailing husband and father. They did not. They pointed the crowd to Malacañang. And all the public can see now is how little they really cared about their crowd they were willing to use them as cannon fodder while they themselves squabbled for the crown.

Three, visually, the riot has supplied new images to push aside the awesome one of Erap being fingerprinted and photographed like a common thief, which has become the symbol of national shame. Or the symbol of the humiliation of the poor, the poor identifying completely with Erap for reasons of their own. New images have emerged, the most powerful of which is the one of Santiago goading the crowd to "action." I saw it last weekend, and my blood boiled at the utter recklessness of it. There and then, I believed that person literally deserved a straitjacket. Only someone truly insane would have no compunction about sending that crowd to pound on the gates of Malacañang with their bare hands. But there she was, putting the match to the powder keg with cries of "*Hanggang dito na lang ba tayo?*" To which the crowd shouted back, "*Sugod! Sugod!*"

There is only one thing to do: Arrest them. Arrest Santiago, arrest Enrile, arrest all those who incited that crowd to march to Malacañang, who lifted the gun and fired it—in the end, at the *masa* themselves. Government made a mistake to arrest Erap too early, it would make a mistake to arrest the authors of Tuesday's mayhem too late. Now is the time to show decisiveness.

Now is the time to teach lessons in crime and punishment. They will be learned.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

The state defends itself

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE ATTACK on Malacañang early yesterday morning by the hordes from the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa was not as "spontaneous" as opposition politicians tried to make it appear.

The assault deployed the rabble as the first wave of the shock troops to overrun the Palace, according to military intelligence reports. If the mob had overrun the Palace, a reserve force of armed groups would enter the breach opened by the hordes in a bid to seize power. The first wave of marchers overrun undermanned police barricades from Ortigas, to Sta. Mesa, Nagtahan, Mendiola and Laurel Streets. They had already reached Gate 7 of the Palace compound in preparation to storm it before the security forces repelled them.

The attack caught the government by surprise. The government was lulled into a false sense of security by the fact that the Iglesia ni Cristo legions pulled out of the rally on Monday evening. More people were trucked in or joined the rally so that by midnight, the crowd had swelled to about 110,000.

The march began at 1.30 a.m, Tuesday, after opposition politicians had gone down their coordination center on the 29th floor of the Galleria Suites. Those who were spotted by intelligence agents included Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal, and former President Estrada's sons—Jude and JV Ejercito, according to intelligence reports. JV led the march until Wilson Street where there was a teargas encounter with the thin police barricade. He dropped out of sight after that. It is the same JV Ejercito who has maintained that he tried to restrain the crowd from marching to the Palace. That mob was incited to violence and to embark on the march by inflammatory rhetoric in the rallies of opposition leaders, rabble-rousing them to go to the Palace to topple the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

During the six-day rallies, opposition leaders alternately used three venues as their coordinating center—Room 107 of the Richmonde Hotel at the Ortigas Center, the presidential suite of Shangri-La Edsa Hotel, and the Galleria Suites on the 29th floor.

According to intelligence reports, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and former Philippine National Police chief, Gen. Panfilo Lacson, directed tactical operations of the rallies and the march to Malacañang.

The march was a test of government's capacity to defend Malacañang as the seat of state power. The tactic was the human wave assault, using the rabble who had been incited to rebellion by inflammatory rhetoric, as the battering ram and cannon fodder. The plotters had to use the *masa* because they failed to secure significant support from inside the Armed Forces and the PNP. The armed groups waiting as a reserve force were composed of PNP officers on AWOL and of Guardian organization men identified with Honasan.

The government was able to bring in military and police reinforcements by 6 a.m. and to start dispersal operations at 10 a.m. Between those times was a dangerous stalemate, which did not give the coup plotters' reserve force the opportunity to move in.

With the collapse of the attack after the dispersal, the government proved it had the capacity to defend itself. It hurdled its first test of strength against rebellion, making coup plotters more cautious in launching another attack. The solidarity of the Armed Forces was demonstrated. Its members didn't break ranks. The mobs were dispersed and driven out by mid-day. The dispersal was carried out methodically, with restraint, and fewer casualties than would have been expected in that scale of rioting. Looting took place, indicating that the hordes had gone out of control.

The plotters at the rally incited the *masa* on false issues and fueled their social grievances. In the process they created a monster which they could not control. The shock troops bore the brunt of the reprisals. The elite agitators stayed out of harm's way. They claimed they spoke for the masses and used their grievances to stir them up against a new administration that has been legitimized by the Supreme Court and other state institutions.

After the attack collapsed, the agitators washed their hands of responsibility, with some of them saying that the inflammatory rhetoric was part of election campaign rhetoric. The mobs didn't take it that way. The rhetoric drove them to a rampage.

The *masa* was again exploited by the counterelite, including former President Estrada, for causes which didn't help the poor at all but to promote their own political objectives. The agitators fueled the *masa*'s resentment over the arrest of Estrada. When Estrada was arrested, it was a function of the decisions of the Sandiganbayan in connection with the plunder case against Estrada. The government, under pressure from its Edsa II constituency calling for reforms, acted to make the point that the judicial and political system can arrest a president on charges of serious crimes like plunder.

The Estrada followers couldn't take this decision because it came as a shock and they wanted concessions for privilege to Estrada. We have been accustomed to the fact that the powerful, rich and influential people are above the law. But the government's decision was emphasizing the principle that the law should be applied equally. The Estrada lawyers and the opposition elite made much of the arrest issue. The government failed to explain its decision well enough, allowing the Estrada followers to use it to fuel *masa* resentment and as a mobilizing issue against the government. They used the issue as a staging ground for a power grab.

Opposition leaders also decry the declaration of a state of rebellion and the arrest of the ringleaders of the rebellion. They have indulged the usual legal hair-splitting over the measures taken by the government to defend itself. The point to remember is that the attack on the Palace was clearly a rebellion to seize state power. The state has a right to defend itself, and the government and the Armed Forces have a responsibility to defend the state. Without a credible state, no government is safe.

Women work out a man-free society well

FEATURE

Hillary Jackson

KOH KOR ISLAND, Cambodia—What would happen if 40 women and their children were given seven hectares of land on a remote island and asked to run their own community without the help of men?

That was the challenge a group of women took up—and met—in 1995 when they were moved to Koh Kor Island in the Tonle Bassac River, some 30 km south of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

The women, most of whom were widowed or abandoned by violent husbands, were placed on the island by the Hagar Project, a non-governmental organization that has worked with Cambodian street women and children since 1993.

Today, the success of the project speaks for itself.

The section of the island inhabited by the women is finely manicured and dotted with wooden houses on stilts. They have electricity only during the day, when sewing machines buzz in the craft center and Khmer pop songs emanate from radios.

In the hot sun or teeming rain, women work agricultural fields, tend livestock and feed ponds full of fish that are consumed on the island and sold to nearby villages.

Many also sew handicrafts that the Hagar Project sells in Cambodia and overseas.

"There are 40 women and 107 children on this island. All the women's husbands have died or abandoned them and left them with no home and no land," Nham Mom, the 42-year-old community leader, told Reuters.

While no men live on the island, some are hired by the women to perform difficult tasks such as heavy lifting and ploughing, so the women are not totally isolated from the opposite sex.

"On the island, the only men are hired staff...The women are the farmers and seamstresses. It is up to them to choose their own career," Nham Mom says.

The women had been living on the streets in one of Asia's poorest nations and had no skills or means to support themselves and their families.

Sam Sina, a 36-year-old who was abandoned by her husband more than two years ago, tends lettuce fields on the island.

Although the work is difficult—particularly during the hottest months of March and April—she is committed to providing a future for her five children.

"It is better to live here because before I had no house, and I had no money to send my five children to school," she says.

"Here I have a house and a small field to grow vegetables to sell to support my family, (and) my children can go to school. I feel delighted that my family's future will be bright and I hope that my children will have their own jobs to feed themselves in the future," she explains.

"I never think about my husband or remarriage at all."

Seam Chanthy, a 50-year-old woman drenched in sweat as she throws rice meal to a pond full of catfish, also says she was motivated by her children.

"After my husband's death I faced a lot of difficulties in life, but now it is better because my four children can go to school," she adds. "If I were not here, I don't know what my life would be like, so I am very happy to be here."

On the island, the women call the shots and look after one another, creating a camaraderie that is apparent in the fields and on the porches of their homes, where women and children gather for meals and chit chat.

"When our sisters here meet difficulties, the community helps them. Our people's living conditions here are better when compared with previous conditions because the community encourages the women to earn money to feed themselves," Nham Mom says.

The change in the women from the time they enter the program is remarkable, project director Pierre Tami told Reuters.

"It's very, very hard for them to trust men and authority again. It's an issue of trust...Trust has been broken, and they need to gain that trust again," he says.

"The most striking characteristic we can see is that they've regained a desire to live...a sense of the future, a hope, especially for their children. That's very, very important."

Tami and others at the Hagar Project hatched the idea of an exclusive community six years ago after realizing they would have difficulty reintegrating many of the women treated at the shelter.

"We saw that many of them didn't have land, didn't have a home to go back to. Basically they were homeless and landless and we didn't know how to deal with this problem," he said.

"When a group of people has no place to go you create a place, a sort of promised land for them."

The Hagar Project—a Christian-based group—was able to create that promised land when the Cambodian government donated the seven hectares of land on Koh Kor Island to the NGO.

"Actually, we have today a village of mothers and children—there are no men—who are sustainable. They live off the agricultural and the Hagar crafts industries," Tami says.

"These mothers are very happy to govern themselves. They actually don't want to bring men on the island."

Reuters

Surviving

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WATCHING the TV footage of the pro-Erap hooligans literally at the gates of Malacañang made me remember the five years I lived on Mendiola Street. Rallies and demonstrations were part of my life and I would sometimes be momentarily barricaded in San Beda College unable to get in or out due to a tight security cordon around the Palace. Having seen how rallies were dispersed in the Marcos years, I never thought I would see the day when "maximum tolerance" was actually observed by the police and military—the same crowd at Malacañang yesterday if transported to the Marcos years would have drawn blood. The dispersal of the crowd made me wonder how the residents of the normally quiet San Miguel district felt yesterday when trouble was at their doorstep.

The unruly pro-Erap rallies made me reach for that bright yellow book on my shelf, "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook" by Joshua Priven and David Borgenicht (1999, Chronicle Books, San Francisco, USA). I thought it was worth reviewing again in the light of recent history and the "Survivor" TV series. I had written about this book over a year ago but continue to receive e-mail from readers asking where they can buy a copy. Unfortunately, it is still unavailable in Manila's bookstores, but one can order it online or perhaps through friends or relatives in the United States. The book has some Filipiniana value because the survival expert who wrote the foreword trained with an Aeta named Gunny in one of the former US bases Clark or Subic. Historians live rather sedate lives and I read the book knowing I was storing up more useless information in my head. Would I ever be in a situation where I would need to know: How to wrestle an alligator? How to land a plane? How to escape from killer bees? Well, one will never know. I joined a hike to Mt. Pinatubo early in the year and saw one of my co-explorers fall into a quicksand as she posed for souvenir pictures.

Sometimes, useless information comes in handy even if these mean learning how to escape from bears, mountain lions, or even fending off a shark. I knew that one day I would need to know how to break down a door or how to break into a car (presumably mine, if I forget the key in the ignition or lose it to a pickpocket at a mall). Once in the car one should know how to jump-start it with a wire if you have no key.

While historians are not high on the kidnap list, one should know how to make a fast 180-degree turn or ram another car blocking your path. When bombs started exploding in malls and guards took to delaying us at entrances by going through bags or the trunks of our cars, I wondered whether they can actually recognize a bomb when they see it. Worst-case scenario not only has an illustration on identifying a bomb, it includes horrendous first-aid tips on treating knife and bullet wounds or how to perform a tracheotomy on someone who cannot breathe using a ballpen!

There is a sequel just out with a screaming red cover, "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Travel" which comes with useful information on how to survive a riot; how to survive a hostage situation; how to survive a mugging; how to escape when tied up; how to escape from the trunk of a car; how to survive in a plummeting elevator; how to climb out of a well; how to navigate a minefield, etc. More useless information I said to myself but being a compulsive reader and a frequent traveler, I memorized the sections on how to survive a high-rise hotel fire; how to survive a sandstorm; and how to survive a tsunami. I even enjoyed obscure information on how to deal with a tarantula; how to treat a scorpion sting; and how to cross a piranha-infested river. The point is that we never truly realize how dangerous life can be as soon as we step out the door of our homes. These books are really guides for the paranoid, but then isn't the Boy Scout motto "*Laging handa*"?

What makes the second "Survival" handbook essential for today's traveler is the section on how to pack; how best to fly; and how to travel in dangerous regions. It even has a five-language section on emergency phrases: Help! is available as: *socorro*! (Spanish); *au secours!* (French); *hilfe!* (German); and *tasukete!* (Japanese). Other phrases include: Stop thief!; Run!; Hello—I have been seriously wounded!; May I use your belt as a tourniquet?; May I borrow a towel to wipe up the blood?; Do you know a place where I can hide?; and You will never make me talk!

The last section of the book contains gestures to avoid in certain places. Remember the "OK" hand symbol made famous in the Erap impeachment trial? Sen. Tito Sotto had a point when he said this international sports signal did not mean "grease money." In Brazil, Germany and Russia, the same OK sign is an insult as it refers to a very private orifice. In Japan, the same signal tells a store clerk you want your change in coins. In France, the same signal means you are referring to something worthless. So-called international signs and gestures change meanings from country to country and one must be prepared.

Some thoughtful Erap friend must send these books to his prison cell. Erap needs to be cheered up as he does face a worst-case scenario himself.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Edsa mob abandoned after days of being psyched up

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AFTER WATCHING the hordes secretly march from the Edsa Shrine and attack Malacañang in the wee hours of yesterday, Tuesday, and the Presidential Security Group battle them by stretching their patience beyond the limits of maximum tolerance, the Filipino nation was confronted later in the morning with a presidential declaration of a "state of rebellion" in the metropolis. That declaration sent many citizens digging up their copies of the 1987 Constitution to find out just what "state of rebellion" is all about. It triggered a series of questions: Is it the same as martial law? How long will it last? Will it be indefinite? How does it affect the citizens' rights? Will it affect the May 14 elections?

* * *

Senate President Jovito Salonga told us in a brief phone interview some facts about this condition. The declaration of a state of rebellion is made as a response to, among others, lawless violence, but it is definitely of lesser magnitude as martial law which he acknowledged to be *masyadong mabigat*. To be meaningful, declaring a state of rebellion has to be accompanied by a suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus. This means anyone may be ordered by the President arrested with no questions asked, a condition that could last for 60 days. The state of rebellion has to be confirmed by Congress within 24 to 48 hours, but in the event that it is not in session, such as now, Congress is authorized to convene within 24 hours even without a summons, to act on this declaration which it may choose to revoke. But legal experts opine that in view of the military ascendancy and the violent nature of yesterday's attacking mob, Congress may be in no mood to condemn the declaration.

Predictably, this declaration will be controversial, but perhaps there are conditions to which only the state is privy at the moment.

* * *

Most leaders I spoke to opined that the May 14 elections won't be affected by this declaration. In this connection, the People Power Coalition senatorial candidates met in an emergency session yesterday morning to assess the situation and decided to cut short their barnstorming across the nation, in order to provide support for President Macapagal.

The chief executive got her baptism of fire yesterday and when she appeared on TV at past 6 a.m. to comment on the crisis that had transpired by her gates. Ms Macapagal looked like she hadn't slept. She was dressed in a long-sleeved knitted shirt and had no makeup on, looking very pale. Moreover, she appeared alone on TV. A lawyer friend of mine opined that the chief executive should have taken pains to dress up in a manner more befitting a commander in chief, such as a suit, and she should have fixed up her face. Then too, said this lawyer, she should have appeared together with her Cabinet, in a show of force. This lawyer argued that how the President appeared in the face of belligerence from outside was extremely important as that image surely went around the world. I agree about the need to be fixed up and looking very commander-like in the face of crisis, but then, perhaps the poor lady understandably had no time to do all that.

* * *

The popular theory as to why the hordes finally attacked Malacañang was that the numbers were thinning out at the Edsa Shrine and the leaders who were funding the opposition movement at Edsa and manipulating the crowds realized the effort couldn't be sustained with money and energy any longer. Hence the order to attack Malacañang. What was lamentable was the mob behavior that ensued, characterized by looting, burning, stoning and even the killing of a policeman. The nation is unanimous in its condemnation of the mob.

Opposition senatorial candidate Edgardo Angara was quoted on TV as opining that his group was not responsible for the mob's behavior, as he said that the leaders had told the Edsa crowd the night before not to storm the Palace. But the denial of Angara, who is thought of as one of the moderates in the opposition, constitutes a puny attempt in the face of what the nation heard over the Iglesia ni Cristo media: how the majority of the opposition leaders riled up the mob night after night at Edsa and psyched them up to attack. "*Lusob!*" was their repeated battle cry. But hours after that mob attack, the leaders denied one by one that they had incited the people to attack. But their pronouncements were recorded at Edsa and their alleged coup plot was uncovered. President Macapagal is right in laying the responsibility for what happened yesterday at the opposition's doorstep.

* * *

The media were one in asking yesterday morning, as the ugly confrontation with the mob unfolded: Where was Time Magazine's Anthony Spaeth? Recall that the American news commentator was among the Western media who had ridiculously termed the multitudes at Edsa II a "mob rule." The Filipino people were nearly unanimous in arguing that yesterday morning's hundreds who stormed the Palace constituted a mob, and as UP Law Prof. Meilou Sereno pointed out, Spaeth should be able to note the difference between Edsa II and "Edsa III."

Watching the Presidential Security Group confront the riot group that had marched from the Edsa Shrine to attack Malacañang in the early hours of yesterday morning, it was clear that there were no leaders around. The media people covering the attack on Malacañang were heard by televiewers asking just who led the march. There was no one who could be identified as the mob's leader.

* * *

As UP-trained corporate lawyer Lito Tomimbang, guesting at PTV-4 yesterday, pointed out, the absence of responsible leaders was one of the marked differences between yesterday's mob and the militant groups that had been marching since the martial law days to Edsa II. This is probably why yesterday's hordes committed acts of vandalism and lawlessness

Recall that during the martial law years the columns marching against the military were led by key opposition leaders such as the late Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, his son Bobby Tañada, Chino Roces, human rights lawyers Joker Arroyo, Rene Saguisag (yes, the now-lamented Rene), and even Jojo Binay. Part of the risk of heading the columns was that these leaders were gassed, water-cannoned and jailed, but what was good was that during the crisis moments they were there to negotiate and dialogue with the police or military. Recall too, that at Edsa II the column marching toward Malacañang was led by left-wing leaders such as Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran, and leaders of civil society. When they got to Mendiola Bridge, the leaders were ordered by Jaime Cardinal Sin to bring the column back to the Edsa Shrine in order to avert a violent confrontation with Erap forces.

Yesterday's mob rule had no leader, as those who incited and manipulated the mob at Edsa abandoned them. As senatorial candidate Homobono Adaza put it, they did a Pontius Pilate.

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Getting a dose of its own medicine?

EDSA II and "Edsa III" are both legitimate protests as all sides of the political fence agree. The Catholic Church may have to rethink whether the corner of Ortigas and Edsa Avenues is a proper venue to air legitimate political grievances. Some of these grievances may not be in line with the Catholic Church's political agenda since the protesters may or may not be Catholic at all. So I believe that the monsignor's comment that the Church did not grant permission to use the shrine may sound like sour grapes. The Church needs to realize that using a church to push its politics may backfire. And in this Edsa III, the Church got a dose of its own medicine.

Edsa has become an ecumenical venue where concepts from different ideological colors or persuasions can be freely expressed. The Church may rightly disallow the use of the shrine that is meant for Catholic religious celebrations, but the front area of the shrine is open space in which people, regardless of religious or political beliefs, may peacefully assemble. We have to remember that although Catholics make up 85 percent of the population, not all of our people are Catholic and the Philippines is a secular state.

Peacefulness is the main condition for assembling in front of the shrine. Unfortunately, the Edsa III crowd has crossed the thin line separating a peaceful assembly and mob rage. And we don't thank some of the senatorial candidates from the Puwersa ng Masa. One female candidate, from the tone of her speech, came close to inciting the crowd to a rampage.

Like many people with true religious convictions, I am appalled at what the Edsa III protesters have done with the Catholic shrine on Edsa and the flag of the Holy See (a sovereign independent state that deserves respect). There is nothing so ugly as an act of religious intolerance and all Filipinos should work and pray hard that we are spared the fate that has befallen our neighbor, Indonesia.

The most numerous church may have to do a deep rethinking and reflection. About a decade ago, the Catholic Church in the Philippines decided to side with the poor during its Plenary Council. The Edsa III protesters may really have been fooled by the Estrada image, but has the Church done enough aggressive catechesis to counter this trend and drive the real moral and social issues home? I am of the opinion it's not doing enough aside from pastoral letters read from the pulpits at Mass. The poor need more than that. The smaller religious sects may really offer what the poor need. However, as human institutions, these small churches may fall just as easily to political temptation as the Roman Catholic Church. That is the real tragedy.—**BENJAMIN VALLEJO JR., Quezon City**

Why the VIP treatment still?

SOME of us are wondering if the news footage of deposed President Joseph Estrada from the time he was arrested to his stay at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center was choreographed or a film release by his PR guys. Why is he always with his wife and always treated like a VIP? The doctors, the guards and all those around him wherever he goes look like they are afraid or still serving a president. On the news footage shown by cable and other news groups he is still treated like a VIP and not somebody charged with some really serious crimes. Why can't some ordinary citizens be treated like that? How much of the taxpayers' money was spent for the helicopter ride to the Veterans hospital? Why can't Juan de la Cruz get to be sent to a hospital in a helicopter? Why can't I be treated like a VIP on my way to trial?

Enough is enough! We have the Marcoses, now there's Estrada to contend with. I say, if he dies, let him suffer like the rest of us poor souls here in a poor man's city jail.—**ROGER DEL ROSARIO, live4dworld@hotmail.com**

Treasure trove of rice varieties

I ENJOYED Ambeth R. Ocampo's column titled, "Things we still do not know about rice." (PDI, 4/25/01) I was particularly intrigued by Ocampo's list of traditional rice varieties that comprise, as he wrote, "a whole new rice world I did not know existed." He went on to ask, "Could they be rare or extinct varieties that require research at the International Rice Research Institute?"

The Irri places a high priority on preserving and researching traditional and wild rice varieties in its Genetic Resources Center. Since the early 1970s, more than 110 countries have deposited into the center's International Rice Genebank 107,508 seed samples, representing at least 50,000 different varieties.

Five thousand of the samples (or "accessions" as we call them) are from the Philippines. Prodded by Ocampo's question, my staff and I combed the genebank's database for the 49 variety names in his list. We found 19 that either matched Ocampo's spelling exactly or appeared under a variant spelling found by our "sounds like" search engine.

Ocampo was familiar with *malagquit*, "the sticky type used for *suman* and other rice cakes." We have 21 accessions by that name, including No. IRGC19448 from Bacungan, Palawan, whose tolerance for drought makes it a possible parent for breeding that desirable trait into modern, high-yielding varieties. Similarly, an accession from Iloilo of *macan* (IRGC47618), a variety unknown to Ocampo, is noted for its tolerance of normally toxic levels of iron.

Ocampo speculated that *sinampablo* is an imported Spanish variety. Our earliest of séven accessions under that name, IRGC3972, is at least well traveled, having been returned to the Philippines from the US Department of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland.

Another *balikbayan* from the United States is *sinampaga* (IRGC3966). I'm afraid we can't immediately confirm Ocampo's theory that it is a fragrant rice, but viable seeds are stored in the genebank if he wants to apply for a withdrawal, grow a crop and find out. We can say that the obscure *quiriquiri* (IRGC74610) is an aromatic variety that was collected at Tuklong village, Kawit, Cavite. Another accession from Cavite, *quimamalig* (IRGC67439), is noted for the good quality of its grain.

In summary, we can assure Ocampo that at least 40 percent of the varieties in his "new rice world" aren't extinct. As part of the irreplaceable galaxy of rice biodiversity, the genetic heritage of generations of farmers, they are held in trust in the Irri's International Rice Genebank, stored under conditions that meet standards set by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

Thanks to this facility, the Irri has been able to restore varieties to their countries of origin after being lost in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and, most dramatically, during the civil war in Cambodia. More recently, the Irri restored to farmers in the Cagayan Valley seed stocks of 28 traditional and modern varieties that were lost during the El Niño of 1997 and typhoons Loleng and Iliang in 1998.

It is heartening to know that there are people like Ocampo who recognize and value the central role rice plays in Philippine life. I found his column a welcome reminder of the importance of our work here at the Irri.—**DR. MICHAEL JACKSON, head, Genetic Resources Center, International Rice Research Center, Los Baños, Laguna**

Ombudsman did not exonerate in Kuratong case

READING your editorial titled "Murder Inc." (PDI, 4/25/01) on the Kuratong Baleleng case, in relation to the Salvador Dacer/Emmanuel Corbito double murder and similar incidents, we feel an urgent need to set some facts straight to prevent any undue erosion of the public faith in the Office of the Ombudsman, especially during this critical period when it has to show continued competence and resolve in pursuing deposed President Estrada's cases.

Contrary to your expressed belief that we "exonerated" the suspects in the Kuratong Baleleng case, our office, in fact, charged them, together with some involved high-ranking police generals, with multiple murder, both as principals and accessories. It is noteworthy that even the accessories stand to be jailed for 12 years in each of the 11 cases. The prejudice to the respondents even provoked a plot against the life of the incumbent Ombudsman, which was discovered by the Philippine National Police then. From the Sandiganbayan where our office would have taken charge of prosecuting the cases, the Supreme Court ordered them transferred to the Regional Trial Court in Quezon City. At the RTC, the prosecutors of the Department of Justice took over in accordance with established procedure. It was at that level that the cases were dismissed, as the principal witnesses had either made themselves unavailable or recanted their testimonies.

Other than the foregoing, we do share your concerns about policemen getting involved in criminal acts and may be already having a "mind-set for murder" as you put it. Rest assured that our office shall stand by you firmly in challenging and confronting the looming menace.

We trust though that you will promptly give this communication a conspicuous space in your newspaper, for the sake of truth and in fairness to our office, the Filipino people and the public service, considering that the mistake was no less carried by your editorial.—**JOSE T. DE JESUS JR., spokesperson, Office of the Ombudsman, Old Nawasa Bldg., 176 Arroceros St., Manila**

No compromise talks on SMC, Cocobank

WE write in connection with a report last April 23, 2001 under the title "Gov't, Cojuangco camp seek compromise on SMC, Cocobank," written by Clarissa S. Batino. It said that the government has initiated efforts at exploring the possibility of a compromise with the Cojuangco camp.

To set the record straight, and so that the public may know, the government has not opened any "informal talks with Cojuangco's camp to explore the possibility of an out of court settlement." Neither has the Office of the Solicitor General discussed with any government official any such efforts taken toward a compromise.

On the contrary, (with the initial review of the records of the cases of the Presidential Commission on Good Government having been completed by the undersigned and the newly assigned lawyers, as well as the result of the oral arguments conducted by the Supreme Court on April 17, 2001 regarding the sequestered UCPB shares), the OSG is quite convinced and confident of the merits and strength of the government's case.

Finally, in the event that certain statements are attributed to the undersigned in the future, it would be greatly appreciated if confirmation from him is sought prior to publication.—**SIMEON V. MARCELO, solicitor general, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

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PRESS STATEMENT

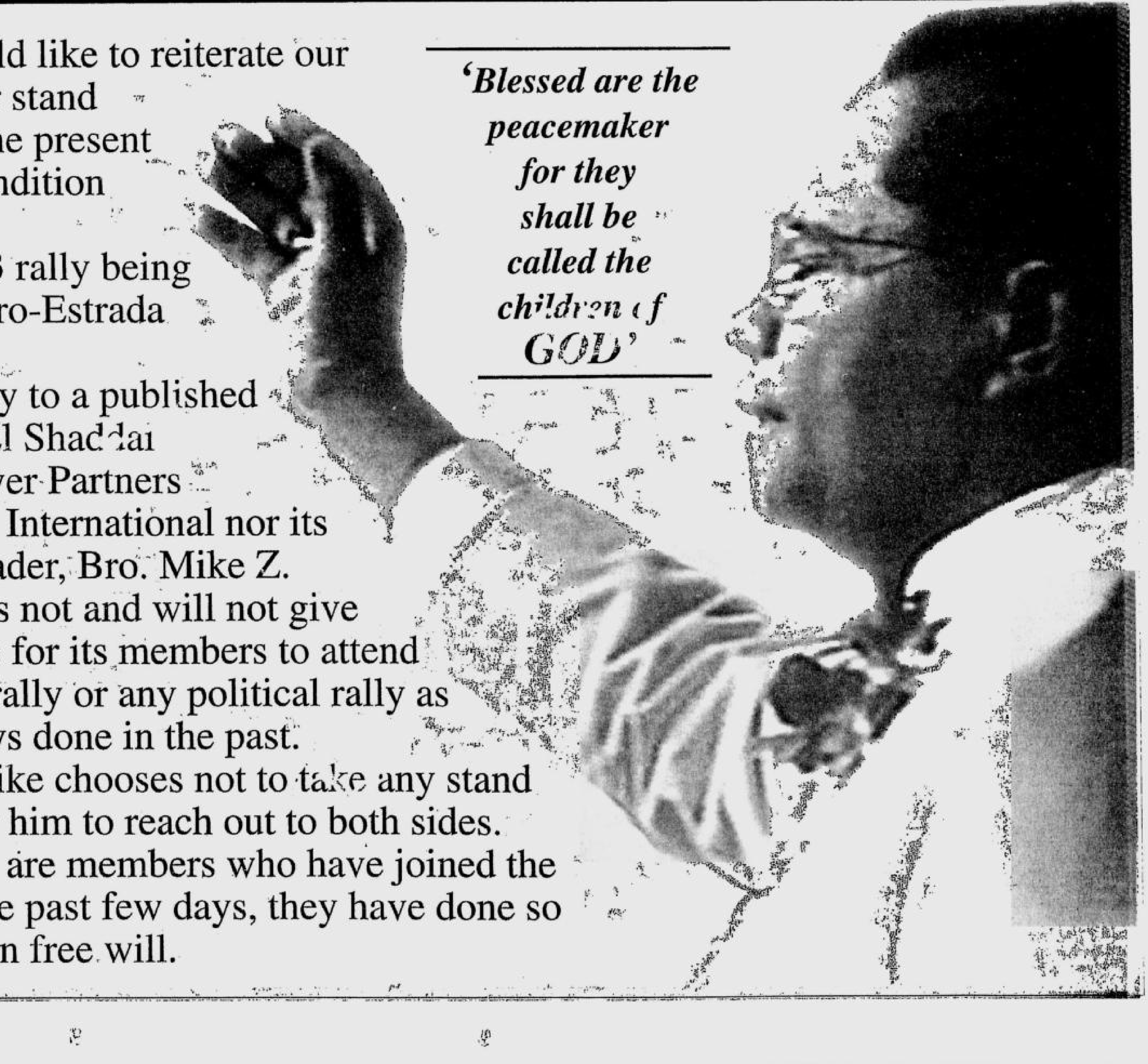
We would like to reiterate our earlier stand regarding the present political condition particularly the EDSA 3 rally being staged by pro-Estrada supporters.

Contrary to a published report the El Shaddai DWXI Prayer Partners Foundation International nor its Servant Leader, Bro. Mike Z. Velarde, has not and will not give instructions for its members to attend the EDSA rally or any political rally as it has always done in the past.

Bro. Mike chooses not to take any stand in order for him to reach out to both sides.

If there are members who have joined the rallies in the past few days, they have done so on their own free will.

'Blessed are the peacemaker for they shall be called the children of GOD'



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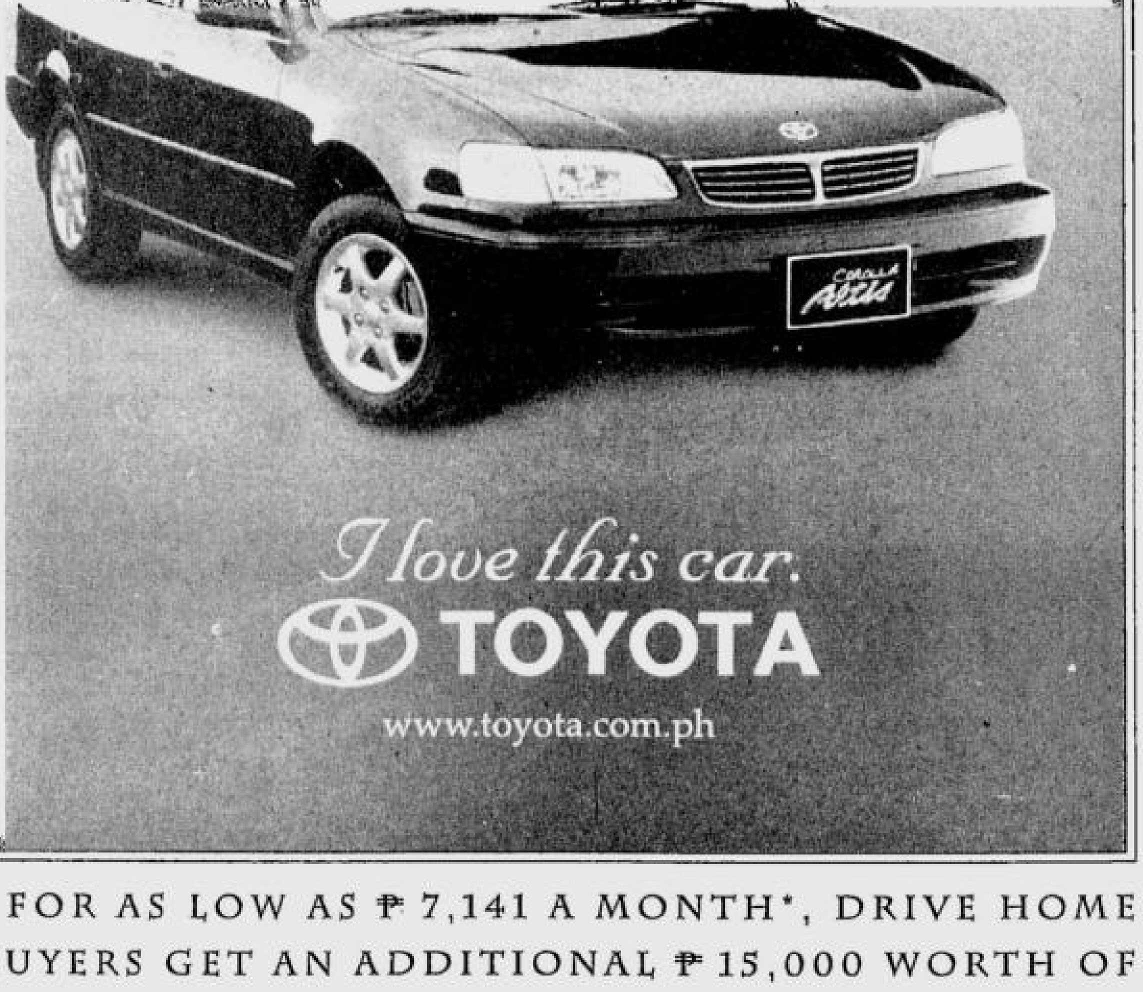

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0583, Series of 2001.

The WORLD

Wahid to resist impeachment move

JAKARTA—Facing the threat of impeachment after a second parliamentary censure, President Abdurrahman Wahid huddled with his closest aides on yesterday, apparently determined to tough out the nation's political crisis.

WAHID

Speaking briefly to reporters during a break between meetings at the state palace, Wahid said would make a statement "within one or two days."

He did not respond when asked whether he was considering resigning.

Earlier, officials said the 61-year-old Muslim cleric still believes he can negotiate a deal with his political rivals that will keep him in office even though the head of parliament described his position as "hopeless."

Others called on him to quit. However, officials said Wahid had no intention of stepping down in favor of Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Wahid denied as gossip claims that his relationship with Megawati had deteriorated and that she was now positioning herself to take over.

"Let people talk. But nothing is happening," he said.

Later parliamentary officials delivered a copy of the censure to Wahid's office.

"The president has truly violated state guidelines and the Constitution," it said.

Lawmakers on Monday overwhelming censured Wahid over his alleged involvement in two graft scandals and accused his of mismanaging the crisis-ridden country, which is wracked by economic problems and escalating communal violence and separatism.

"I don't know what the president can do about it, but theoretically, it is hopeless," Speaker Akbar Tandjung said yesterday.

"It is better that he resigns now, it will be more graceful and his shortcomings will be forgotten. Otherwise, just imagine, if he is impeached it be traumatic for himself and his family."

Wahid is Indonesia's first freely chosen head of state following four decades of authoritarian rule. He came to power 18 months ago with high hopes of delivering democratic and economic reform after the rule of former dictator Suharto. *AP*

Workers mark May Day with protests

SEOUL—Workers of North and South Korea sang and danced together in their first joint celebration of May Day, while anti-globalization protesters scuffled with police in Australia and demonstrators prepared marches around the world.

Some 1,000 workers from the two Koreas observed May Day at Diamond Mountain, a scenic North Korean resort area. In Seoul, thousands of South Korean workers staged marches against economic reforms that have resulted in layoffs.

The inter-Korean festivities were the first of their kind since the division of the Korean peninsula in 1945. The Koreas fought a 1950-53 war, and their border remains sealed.

Choi Chang Man, a North Korean representative, called for support for a June 15 summit agreement in which leaders of the two Koreas pledged to work for national reconciliation and unification.

"We workers in the North and the South must unite to support the June 15 joint declaration," Choi said. His remarks and other details of the joint May Day festivities were reported by South Korea's national news agency, Yonhap.

Inter-Korean reconciliation has slowed this year. Experts believe North Korea is upset with the government of President George W. Bush, who said he was skeptical of North Korean leaders and would not immediately resume talks with the communist regime.

Other inter-Korean May Day events included a circus, a soccer match and recreational programs, Yonhap said. The South Koreans were to return home Thursday aboard a cruise ship.

North Korean workers, wearing white baseball caps and T-shirts with the blue-colored map of the Korean peninsula printed on them, greeted South Korean visitors with shouts of "Unification," Yonhap said.

In Australia, thousands of anti-globalization protesters scuffled with riot police. Several people were reported injured in Brisbane.

Hundreds of protesters blocked the entrance to the Sydney headquarters of the Australian Stock Exchange, linking arms to prevent people from entering the building, but business was not interrupted.

In Cuba, leader Fidel Castro's government called for hundreds of thousands of workers to take part in a march past the US government's mission in Havana.

In Colombo, Sri Lanka, more than 1,000 armed policemen shut many of the capital's roads to traffic and lined the streets as political parties and trade unions began May Day rallies and meetings. *AP*

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5 The account number will serve as the raffle number. The number of points earned from each account will be equivalent to the number of times the account number will be generated for the raffle.
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9 The redemption period for the prizes is within sixty (60) days from notification. The trip prizes can be availed within sixty (60) days from the date the winner claimed the prize. Failure to redeem within this period shall mean forfeiture of the prize with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
10 Travel prizes are subject to confirmation by the official travel agency. Allow two (2) weeks notification before date of travel for airline booking and hotel reservations. All travel document expenses will be shouldered by the winner.
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* *Photo of room / vehicle may vary from actual unit.*

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1200 Series of 2001.

FAT LADIES SING . . . AND DANCE REUTERS

Thai contestants at the Miss Jumbo Queen competition display their singing and dancing prowess at an elephant ground and zoo in Nakhon Pathom, south of Bangkok, May 1. The Jumbo Queen Contest is held to select the contestant who best exhibits the characteristics of an elephant by virtue of her grace, elegance and size.

Bush to reduce US nuke force

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush intends to make deep reductions in US nuclear weapons, perhaps without negotiating reciprocal cuts by Russia, officials say. The administration sees these reductions as one element of a new national security strategy that includes a global missile defense.

Bush was spelling out his vision for security in a speech yesterday at the National Defense University—the same venue that then-President Bill Clinton used exactly eight months ago to announce that he believed the technologies needed for a shield against ballistic missiles were not mature enough to commit to building one.

The president was presenting a "general framework" for a comprehensive security strategy, rather than specific details, a senior administration official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Bush will shift emphasis toward a defensive nuclear strategy—not just missile defenses but also coordinated efforts to stop the global spread of nuclear weapons technologies—and away from the traditional US strategy of deterring aggression by maintaining a large offensive nuclear capability.

The United States has about 7,200 nuclear weapons and is committed under the START II treaty to reducing that stockpile to 3,500.

Bush often has said he would like to reduce the nuclear arsenal to the lowest level possible while still maintaining enough weaponry to deter an aggressor, but he has not said exactly how low he would go.

The president in his speech yesterday was not committing the United States to specific nuclear cuts, the senior administration official said. "We're not ready to get into numbers," the official said.

The officials also said Bush was not announcing a US withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, although the administration has made it clear for months that it considers the 1972 treaty outmoded and an illegitimate stumbling block to developing effective missiles defenses at the earliest possible date. *AP*

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Iran ranked No. 1 terrorist country in 2000

WASHINGTON—Iran was the most active sponsor of terrorism worldwide last year, offering assistance for groups opposed to Israel and to peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the State Department says.

Still, Secretary of State Colin Powell gave an upbeat assessment Monday of the struggle against terrorism worldwide, saying that international cooperation "is increasing and it is paying off."

Powell commented as the State Department released its annual report on terrorism.

A department official said Iran has been the most active state sponsor of terrorism for about a decade, although some annual reports stop short of officially making that designation.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Ministry of Intelligence and Security "continued to be involved in the planning and execution of terrorist acts and continued to support a variety of groups that use terrorism to pursue their goals," the report said.

"Statements by Iran's leaders demonstrated Iran's unrelenting hostility to Israel," the report said. "Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei continued to refer to Israel as a 'cancerous tumor' that must be removed."

Powell's analysis of the overall situation was more positive than in past years.

As examples of progress, he cited the tightened UN Security Council sanctions against Afghanistan, which harbors Osama bin Laden, who is wanted for the bombings of two US embassies in East Africa in 1998.

He also pointed to the trial and conviction of a Libyan intelligence officer in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, and continued progress in the investigation into the bombing of the USS Cole last October in Yemen.

That attack killed 17 American sailors and, according to the report, accounted for all but two of the Americans who died in terrorist incidents in 2000.

Powell told reporters that "state sponsors of terrorism "are increasingly isolated. Terrorist groups are under growing pressure. Terrorists are being brought to justice. We will not let up." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Mideast 'understanding' reached—Peres

UNITED NATIONS—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that Israel and the Palestinians have reached a basic understanding on a ceasefire to end seven months of violence, but the situation remains "extremely alarming" and there is still no written agreement. He said Monday that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was "basically correct" when he announced Sunday that a ceasefire deal had been reached. But there was no let up in the ongoing violence. An Israeli motorist was killed in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank yesterday, a day after two mysterious explosions killed five Palestinians, including a militant wanted by Israel and two children. *AP*

Space tourist checks into Hotel Alpha

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—The world's first space tourist, California millionaire Dennis Tito, checked into the international space station for a six-day stay Monday and got a warm welcome. "I love space," he said with a big grin. He was promised first-class accommodations, at least by space standards. "We are going to prepare everything for you—nice bed and warm food," one of the Russian cosmonauts told him. The Russian Soyuz capsule carrying Tito and two cosmonauts caught up with space station Alpha following a two-day chase that began with liftoff in Kazakstan. The hatches swung open and a voice called out: "Welcome aboard!" *AP*

Pope resumes foreign trips

VATICAN CITY—After a long halt for the Holy Year, Pope John Paul II resumes his foreign travel this week with a trip to Greece, Syria and Malta, pushing his frail body in an effort to fulfill some of the goals of his papacy. The globe-trotting Pope has not been on the road since an overnight stay in Fatima, Portugal, a year ago. He remained at the Vatican to preside over near-daily events that drew millions of pilgrims to Rome. He sets out Friday on a six-day pilgrimage, the first of a new series he insists on making to the surprise of some of his closest advisers because of the physical exertion needed. *AP*

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Provinces reject Erap, anarchy

THE RIPPLES of the anarchy that briefly reigned over Metro Manila yesterday reached the provinces, driving thousands out into the streets to counter attempts to overthrow the Macapagal administration.

In the Visayas, at least 13,000 people took part in rallies in Bacolod, Cebu and Iloilo cities to reaffirm the ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

About 8,000 gathered at the Bacolod public plaza in Negros Occidental to attend a rally initiated by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

During the rally, Guillermo Baretta Jr., Bayan and Kilusang Mayo Uno chair in Negros Occidental, slammed the pro-Estrada groups for defending the "man who committed crimes against the people through plunder."

He said the pro-Estrada protests were just being used by the Puwersa ng Masa candidates to win votes.

The rally in Iloilo City was reminiscent of the anti-Estrada protests in January.

About 3,000 Ilonggos, many of whom wore "Estrada Resign" shirts, danced to anti-Estrada songs as they marched to the Iloilo Rotary Amphitheater.

"We're back on the streets not to sow violence but to reaffirm the historical verdict of the people in ousting Estrada," said Jeffrey Celiz, chair of Bayan in Panay.

"To God be the glory! People Power II has scored its second victory," said Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

Lagdameo said the people, who attended the pro-Estrada rallies, were manipulated to defend the "indefensible" by politicians who were using the former President for their political agenda.

"We pray that the (Macapagal) government will shift gears and will more intently, more seriously listen to the cry of the poor and really work to improve their conditions," Lagdameo said.

At least 3,000 people attended three separate rallies in Cebu City yesterday.

About 1:30 p.m., some 200 members of Akbayan converged at the Fuente Osmeña rotunda for a Mass before staging a caravan around Cebu City.

When the Akbayan group left an hour later, at least 1,000 members of Bayan took over the Fuente Osmeña rotunda for their own rally.

Butz Cinco, lawyer of Bayan Muna, called on the allies of the deposed President not to use the poor in advancing their political interests.

He also urged the poor especially in Metro Manila to wake up and realize that they were just being used.

About 2,000 people affiliated with the group Sanlakas and the Partido ng mga Manggagawa converged on Colon Street, about 2 kilometers away from the Fuente Osmeña rotunda, for a mass action.

In the Bicol region, about 15,000 people gathered at a public plaza not only to celebrate Labor Day but also to express their support for the administration of Ms Macapagal.

Jariz Vida, Bayan Muna provincial coordinator, said the rally was the biggest in the region so far since the 1980s.

"It is disheartening that the group of (Sen. Juan Ponce) Enrile et al is using the so-called conflict between the rich and the poor to advance their selfish interests," said Tess Pielago, secretary general of the Bicol Women for the Advancement of Nationalism (Bicolana).

Pielago said militant groups in Bicol were ready anytime to proceed to Manila to thwart any attempt to bring back Estrada to power. *Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Ghea Tenchavez and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau and Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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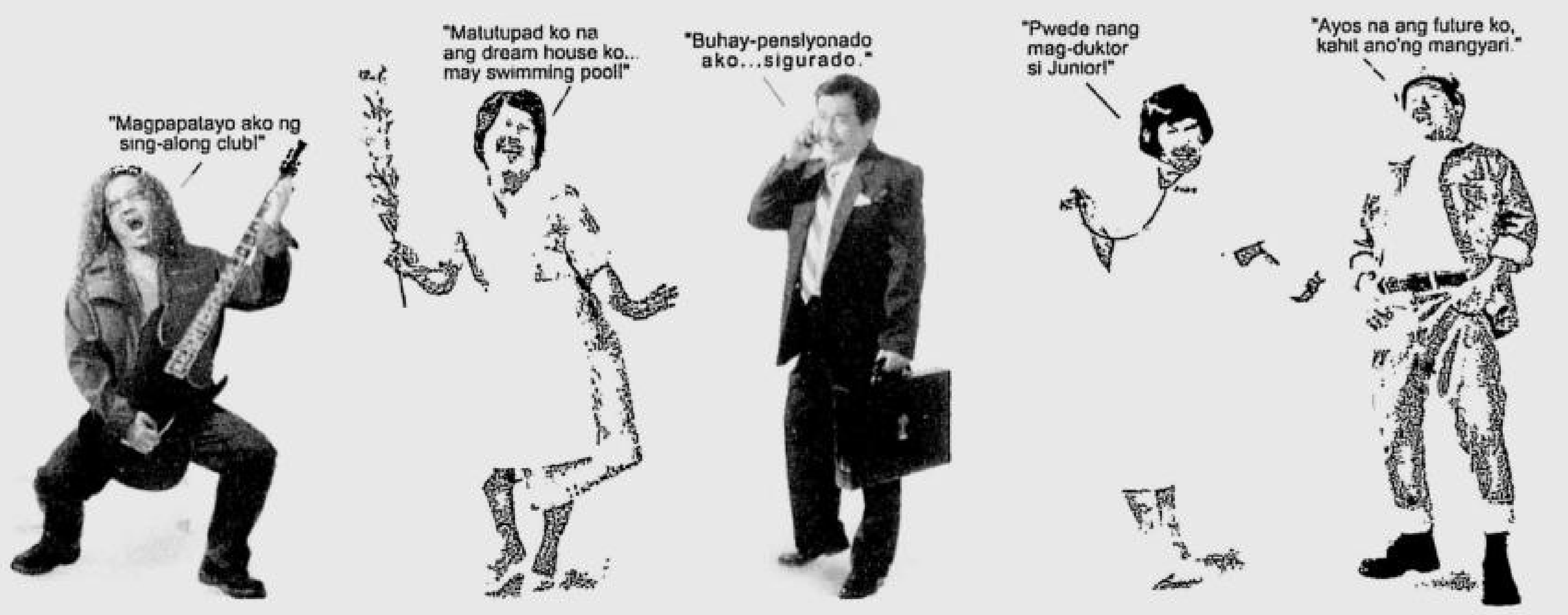
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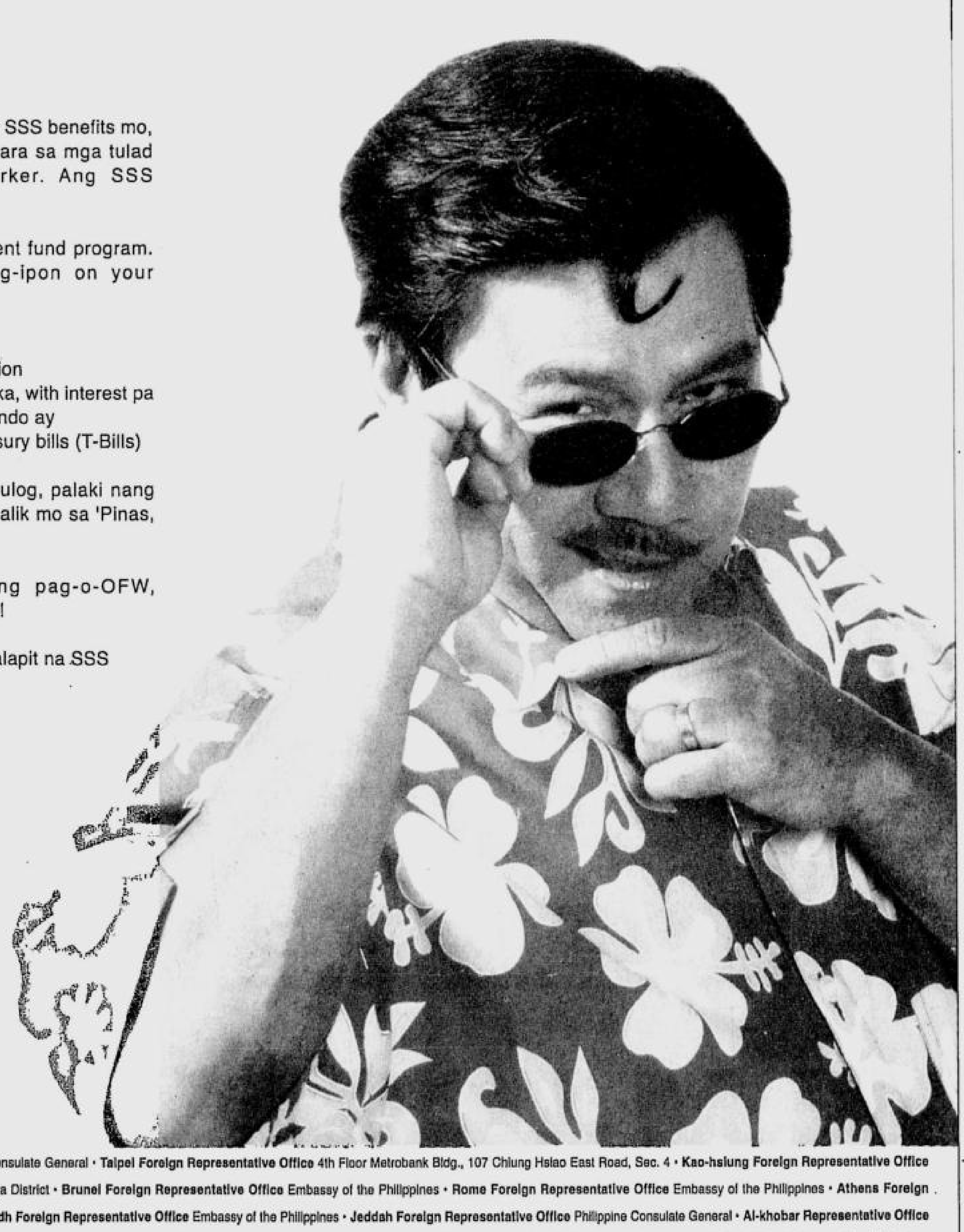

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Rallies held also in North, Central Luzon

IN NORTHERN and Central Luzon, there were no reports of the massing up of pro-Estrada supporters. Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed that most residents stayed glued to their TV sets to watch the events unfolding on Mendiola.

In Dagupan City, the immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines supported the government's move to arrest the 11 suspected instigators of rebellion in Metro Manila, saying they should be tried in court.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Diocese of Lingayen-Dagupan also called on authorities to press charges against the primary suspects who incited the Estrada supporters to become unruly and violent.

"How far can the government and the military tolerate this act of rebellion? If the Macapagal administration did not declare Manila under a state of rebellion, our country could end up in a state of anarchy," he said.

"The instigators should be tried according to due process," said Cruz, who officiated a Mass for peace and justice at the St. John Cathedral in Dagupan City on Monday.

Delmer Cruz, secretary general of Erap Agco La! Movement (Enough of Erap), said the fiery speeches of some opposition senatorial candidates at the pro-Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine had "whipped up the emotions of the crowd and incited them to march to Malacañang."

"We pity fellow Filipinos who allowed themselves to be used by politicians who ironically wanted to capitalize on their poverty. We appeal to the President to bring to justice those who are behind the (rebellion)," he said.

In Baguio City, at least 500 workers, students and members of religious groups who gathered for a Labor Day march on Tuesday condemned the politicians behind the violence.

"It is only proper to aspire for changes but they (pro-Estrada ralliers) should understand and know who among these politicians would truly push their interests," said Rey Sumayo, a member of Kilusang Mayo Uno and National Federation of Workers Union in the Cordillera.

"What happened was truly sad because most of those who went to Mendiola were the lowly workers. Politicians identified with Estrada used them as frontline forces," he said.

A Puwersa ng Masa coordinator in Baguio said poverty and the need to eke out a daily living prevented Estrada supporters from uniting in the provinces.

"It does not mean there are no Estrada supporters here," he said.

But what concerned activists in Baguio were official government statements that threatened to clamp down on the Estrada supporters using sedition charges as a leverage. *Reports from Gobleth Moulic, Vincent Cabreza, Pamela Herrera, Cesar Marquez, Abigail Pajarito, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 35° Lo 24°	**Baguio** Hi 26° Lo 16°	**Tuguegarao** Hi 36° Lo 24°	**Laoag** Hi 35° Lo 24°
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Gen. Santos Hi 32° Lo 24°	**Zamboanga** Hi 32° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** Hi 32° Lo 23°	**Davao** Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

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18-15 Escario St.,
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Southern Luzon Bureau
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Tel. No. (052) 480-8099
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PILFERAGE OF ALUMINUM

Napocor says it loses ₱3M a day to wire thieves

CALAMBA, Laguna—The National Power Corp. South Luzon Transco Office (SLTO) has claimed that it loses P3 million daily to thieves who knock down and steal vital high-voltage power lines.

These stolen power lines, according to the SLTO, include the vital 230-KV transmission line section between the Tayabas substation in Quezon province and the San Jose substation in Bulacan.

This line section provides one of the three connecting links between the north and south sectors of the Luzon grid that are crucial for the continuous supply of power in Luzon.

Guillermo R. Redoblado, SLTO group manager, in a press statement furnished the INQUIRER, revealed that about 7:40 p.m., March 10, one of its steel towers located in Barangay Rizal, Pakil, Laguna, was knocked down because some lines were stolen.

This, he said, resulted from the sawing-off of the tower's bundle-of-four conductors or wires made of aluminum strands and high-strength steel core.

Redoblado said he suspected that the "unwarranted destruction" of the steel towers was the work of aluminum wire thieves.

Similar thefts were reported in the later part of the 1980s in Bicol and Quezon provinces, he said.

This latest theft of aluminum wires, according to Redoblado, has caused losses to the Napocor at an average amount of P3 million in revenue daily and repair costs of about P5 million for the repair of towers that would last from seven to as many as 45 days.

He said the pilferage of aluminum wires has been going on since it was discovered on Jan. 23 by linemen of the Laguna branch of the SLTO.

Reports said that Philippine National Police units of Pakil and the neighboring towns of Paete and Siniloan and the 1st Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army have so far caught several suspects and recovered three tons of aluminum wires with the help of barangay officials in the affected areas.

The Napocor and other power distributors pass on their losses to consumers in the form of power rate adjustments.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the suspension of the PPA, but the order was not made clear.

The Napocor later clarified that what was being suspended were surcharge rates being passed on to power distributors by companies that generate electricity.

Consumers nationwide were demanding that the Napocor lower its rates and remove the power rate . justment rates.

Some Napocor transmission lines in Mindanao were also made targets of rebel attacks. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Printers cash in on election frenzy

BY CYNTHIA A. BORGUETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Happy days are here again for local printers.

Their telephones have not stopped ringing while their offices are always full with clients who want to book printing jobs for campaign posters and fliers.

So it does not come as a surprise that owners of printing shops are beaming these days because money has been pouring in.

"This is one season (during which) we earn more," said lawyer Jerry Uy, one of the co-owners of the Five Star Printing Press, which operates in this city.

Uy said their printing office had been receiving huge bookings of campaign posters and fliers since September last year.

Additional orders kept coming in, he added, especially since March 30, the start of the campaign period for local candidates.

Uy said they had been having problems on how to cope with the additional orders because of the huge orders that were booked earlier.

He said there were instances when supporters of some candidates would order tens of thousands of campaign posters.

There was even a time when their employees had to turn down bookings because they ran out of materials to be used for printing.

Uy, however, said they had stopped receiving other printing jobs lately because of the bulk of the orders for campaign posters.

They started accepting other printing jobs on April 19 when the printing press was no longer be fully booked, he added.

Two other printing offices in Tacloban City have been fully booked because of the huge orders for campaign posters and fliers.

Bicol progress hinges on railway

LEGAZPI CITY—The Lakas-NUCD-UMDP Party sees the Bicol region becoming the next industrial hub of Luzon through the revitalization of its transport system, especially its railways.

Jose Rufino, presidential political liaison and Lakas executive director, said the Bicol region had been neglected by the previous administration, which failed to keep its promise to Bicolanos.

"But this would not happen in the present Arroyo administration as the new government (would) take off where the previous government failed," Rufino said.

He said one way that Bicol could jumpstart its economic progress is for it to capitalize on the province's natural attributes.

Bicol, he said, is surrounded by bodies of water where world-class seaports could be developed.

He noted the case of the planned Pantao port, a proposed regional port in Libon, Albay, which, when constructed, could open the region to markets in Southern Luzon aside from Manila.

He said it is vital that the transport system is revitalized, especially the "Bicol Express" of the Philippine National Railways.

"Rail transport has been the most identifiable trait of Bicol, aside from Mayon Volcano, and unless this mode of transport system is revitalized, it would be difficult for Bicol to move on," Rufino said. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Negros HIV cases now 11

BACOLOD CITY—Eleven persons in Negros Occidental have been found positive of the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV), which causes the dreaded Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Dr. Ernesto Malvas, provincial health officer, said the 11 HIV cases were reported to his office from January to March this year.

He, however, said they had not received a report of persons with full-blown AIDS.

"(But) AIDS is in Negros Occidental and those who have relatives affected (with the disease) should accept this," he said. "They should report AIDS cases so we can help the patients and try to prevent the spread of AIDS."

Malvas stressed that the patient's personal circumstances would be kept confidential. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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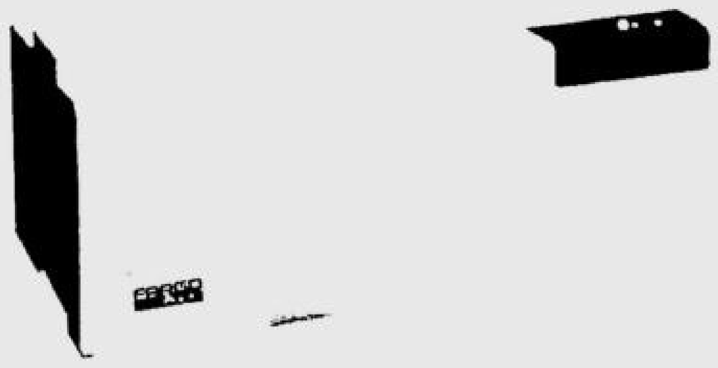

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
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Marcoses take back Ilocos politics

BY CRISTINA ARZADON
Ilocos Norte

THE MARCOSES' move to lay down the ground work to regain full control of Ilocos Norte politics has become more apparent and deliberate in the May 14 elections.

Unlike in 1998 when key players in the political arena resorted to "arrangements" to dominate political alliances, this year would seem to be a gauge of the Marcoses' own strength as a political dynasty after having declared their independence from other political clans in the province.

Others say it will also be a test on the extent of influence that Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Rep. Imee Marcos command among Ilocanos without the support of their former political allies.

The siblings would now have to resort to the old "Marcos magic," which faded with the death of their father, dictator Ferdinand Marcos, using the help of old political allies identified with the Marcos regime.

Unopposed

The Marcos siblings are running unopposed in their second terms. .

In the absence of the Marcoses after the People Power Revolution in 1986, known political clans such as the Ablans, the Naluptas and the Fariñases have slowly made their mark in the local political arena.

This time, Marcos Jr. has taken hold of the political switchboard throwing his support behind candidates to face, some say to "eliminate," the Fariñas clan from politics.

Marcos has renewed his alliance with former Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan Jr., whom he defeated in 1998 in the gubernatorial race. He is now backing Ablan to run against reelectionist Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas in the first district.

Marcos has also endorsed Col. Wilfred Nicolas, former chief of the defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, who is said to pose a strong showing against reelectionist Laoag City Mayor Roger Fariñas, older brother of Fariñas.

The Marcos siblings have resurrected their father's political party, the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, which saw its glory during Marcos' 20-year rule.

The KBL slate is a mix of Marcos relatives and politicians who held office in the province during Marcos' time.

Some of the candidates are old, familiar clans that have served the province at one point during the 20-year presidency of Marcos.

The dictator's only surviving sister, Fortuna Marcos-Barba, is running for mayor in San Nicolas town, a post previously occupied by her son, three-time Mayor Angelo Marcos-Barba.

Angelo is now running for a seat in the provincial board under Governor Marcos' lineup.

Another chip from the old KBL is Antonio Raquiza Jr., son and namesake of the late Ilocos Norte Assemblyman Antonio Raquiza, who is seeking a provincial board seat. The elder Raquiza helped Marcos form the KBL in the 1970s.

Supporters from the Marcos' camp said the governor is bent on driving out the Fariñas clan from politics and was joining sorties in the villages just to ensure votes for his candidates for the top posts in Laoag City and in the province.

"Governor Marcos does not need to court votes because he does not have an opponent. But he hops from one village to another to campaign for Ablan and Nicolas," a supporter-leader from the governor's camp said.

THE MARCOS family during the arrival of the casket bearing the remains of the late dictator in September 1993 in Laoag City. FILE PHOTO

Marcos' candidates also enjoy the support of former First Lady Imelda Marcos who raised the hands of Nicolas and Ablan during the KBL's proclamation rally earlier this month.

Differences

Mrs. Marcos, who is said to have tried but failed to patch up the differences between her son and Fariñas, has also been appearing in the campaign sorties of Ablan and Nicolas in remote villages in the province.

She said the family had decided to support Ablan as a result of a consensus among political leaders.

"Everybody knows how close Roque has been to the Marcoses. We are only listening to the voice of the people. Right now, the people want Congressman Ablan to be the candidate for the first district," she said.

But Ablan, who is described in reports as facing "a battle of his life," is clearly the underdog in the congressional race.

Political observers say his defeat in the gubernatorial fight against Marcos in 1998 has already cast a downside in his acceptance

MARCOSES/ p.17

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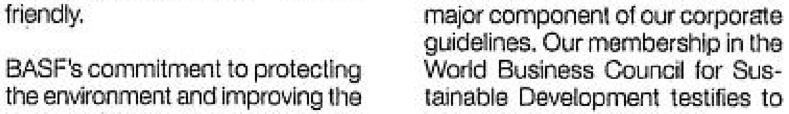

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'I heard the gunshots . . . they killed my father'

BY DESIREE CALUZA
Benguet

IMAGES of April 24, 1980 come vivid to Francis Macli-ing whenever he recalls the life and times of his father, the slain Kalinga chieftain Macli-ing Dulag.

Francis, now 53, said it was a night that he could never ever forget—the crisp sound of gunshots from Armalite rifles piercing the silence in Barangay Bugnay in Tinglayan, Kalinga.

"I heard gunshots, there were so many. We were all sleeping, but the sound of the gunshots woke me up. I knew right there and then that they killed my father," said Francis, the eldest son of the Kalinga chieftain of the Butbut tribe.

Francis Macli-ing said his father was killed by a group of Army soldiers led by the late Maj. Leodegario Adalem, then a young lieutenant and a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1978.

Francis, then 32, said Adalem and his group surrounded his father's house, which was seven meters away from his house, "to assassinate the enemy."

But Adalem, in April last year, met his death in the hands of the New People's Army operating in Tarlac.

Vindicated

For Francis, the injustice done to his father was vindicated by Adalem's death.

"*Mayat no matay isu da* (It was okay that Adalem died). That's the fate of people who live by the gun," said Francis.

Francis said that April 24 would always be "special" for him.

But for the 16 years that Cordillera people celebrated the martyrdom of Macli-ing Dulag's opposition to the Chico Dam project, Francis chose to maintain a low profile.

In the Cordillera Day celebrations held in Barangay Colalo in Mankayan, Benguet, on April 24, Francis silently watched the 3,500 local and foreign delegates who were celebrating his father's legacy.

No one knew that he was the son of the Cordillera martyr.

Francis is a farmer in Barangay Bugnay. He also works as a *kaminero* (street sweeper) like his father 21 years ago, when the Chico Dam construction was being pushed by the government of dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"*Kakaasi kami* (We were so down). When my father died, he never left us any land to till because he had no land of his own. In Kalinga tradition, the youngest in the family will not inherit any land and it just so happened that my father was the youngest in their family," lamented Francis.

He said he admired his father for defending the land of the Kalingas even though he had no land of his own to till.

"He was really for the people," Francis said.

FRANCIS Macli-ing, son of Kalinga chieftain Macli-ing Dulag. NORTHERN DISPATCH

Francis said he would have chosen to avenge his father's death and join the NPA, but the split between the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA and slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg prompted him to stay in his farm.

He said he felt happy, though, that Cordillerans and lowlanders alike continued to honor his father's martyrdom through Cordillera Day celebrations.

Francis went to Mankayan along with other Kalinga elders who were the contemporaries of his father in the Chico Dam struggle.

Other activists believed that Francis is a hero in his own right. An activist recalled that Francis and nine other Kalingas of Tinglayan were jailed in Tabuk town and were tortured by soldiers because of their participation in the Chico Dam struggle.

But Francis wants to leave the admiration to his father, whom he described as "kind, loving and funny." He said he would build a marker on the road leading to their village in memory of his father.

"I just hope that there would be kind hearts to support me financially in this endeavor," he said.

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Tan Agency
CAMANAVA Sales

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Horacean Associates
Manila Sales

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Camas Agency
Makati Sales

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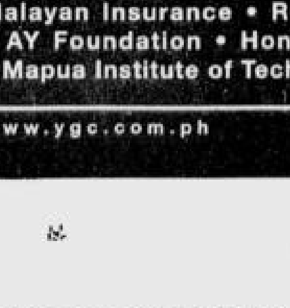

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Attention! GSIS House Design Contest Participants

We are pleased to inform all interested parties
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YOU DESIGN. WE BUILD.

design contest as a result of consultations with the Board of Judges
and the final briefing of contest participants
held last April 27 at the GSIS main headquarters, Pasay City

Contest Requirements

☐ Contestants may join any or all of the following categories:

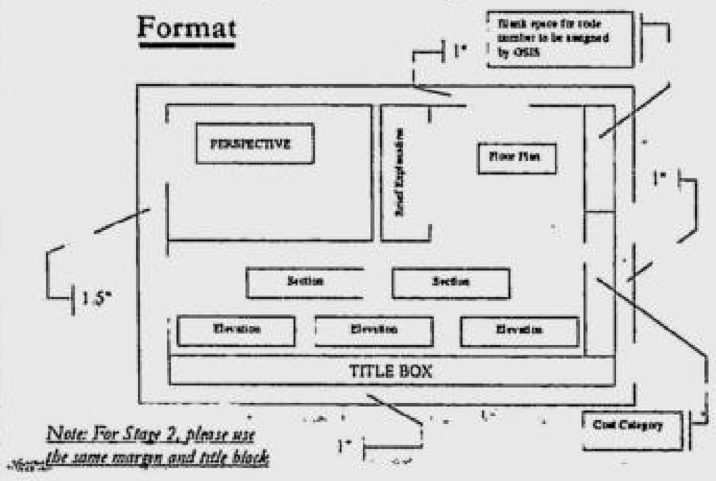
- a) a house worth P150,000
- b) a house worth P250,000
- c) a house worth P350,000
- d) a house worth P450,000

They must submit only one (1) entry for each category.

☐ **STAGE 1 (To be submitted on May 7, 2001)**
For each entry, contestants shall submit a 20" x 30" illustration board presentation drawings of the following on or before May 7, 2001(scale 1 : 100cm):

- a) Perspective (exterior);
- b) Front, back and side elevations;
- c) Two sections;
- d) Complete floor plan
- e) Brief explanation of design features

Format



Note: For Stage 2, please use the same margin and title block

On May 10, GSIS will announce the finalists from among the entries in major newspapers

☐ STAGE 2 (To be submitted by finalists on May 14)

Finalists shall submit on May 14 one set of drawings on 20"x30" tracing paper and another set on white prints to include the following:

- a. All the drawings required on Stage 1 (except item e.)
- b. Foundation plan with details;
- c. Roof & framing plan with details;
- d. Ceiling plan
- e. Electrical and lighting plans with details;
- f. Plumbing & sanitary plans with details (septic tank included);
- g. Bathroom and kitchen details;
- h. Schedule and details of doors & windows;
- i. Bill of materials with brand specifications and cost estimates, labor, contractor's profit & overheads (do not include architect's fee nor building and inspection permit fees)

☐ STAGE 3

On May 17, GSIS will announce the winners. All winning entries shall submit a miniature model (scale 1m : 80cm) of each designed housing unit on May 30.

Prizes at Stake

☐ P150,000 House Category (3 prizes) —
at P150,000/design + plaque & certificate

☐ P250,000 House Category (3 prizes) —
at P150,000/design + plaque & certificate

☐ P350,000 House Category (3 prizes) —
at P150,000/design + plaque & certificate

☐ P450,000 House Category (3 prizes) —
at P150,000/design + plaque & certificate

Criteria for Judging

☐ STAGE 1

1. Design Concepts — **40 points**
   - o Validity and quality of design features
   - o Aesthetic qualities
   - o Architectural features
   - o Responsiveness to family traditions and behavioral patterns
2. Functional Considerations — **40 points**
   - o Structural considerations
   - o Environmental considerations
   - o Economic/financial considerations
3. Quality of Presentation — **20 points**
   - o Completeness of drawings
   - o Clarity and novelty of presentation techniques

☐ STAGE 2

1. All basic architectural and structural components shall adopt an environment-friendly, woodless design for all units; — **10 points**
2. The architectural design must be both aesthetically pleasant and interesting in the design of the unit models rather than a segmental uniformity common in mass housing; — **20 points**
3. The design must be structurally sound and economical; — **20 points**
4. Houses must be planned in holistic approach for optimum space utilization combined with creative flair; — **30 points**
5. The type of houses shall include the following finishing items: — **20 points**
   - o Ceiling for the interior and exterior (eaves)
   - o Gutters and downspouts
   - o All interior partitions;
   - o Tile finish for flooring;
   - o Tile finish for kitchen counters, floor tiles for T&B floor and tiles;
   - o Kitchen cabinets;
   - o Bedroom closets;
   - o Painting

Entries

☐ All entries shall be screened by the Board of Judges composed of distinguished architects/designers and individuals who will prepare a final list of qualified entries;

☐ A Certificate of Participation shall be given to all contestants whose entries have passed the screening of the Board of Judges;

☐ All winning entries shall be the exclusive property of the GSIS;

☐ Non winning entries may be claimed from the GSIS within thirty days after May 31, 2001.

Schedule of Activities

May 7, 2001	Deadline of submission of entries
May 10, 2001	Announcement of finalists
May 14, 2001	Submission of requirements
May 17, 2001	Final Selection by the Board of Judges
May 25, 2001	Submission of house models
May 31, 2001	Awarding ceremonies (GSIS Anniversary)

**Entries may be submitted to the Office of the Senior Vice President for Housing and Real Property Development,
GSIS, Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila ☐ Tel. No. 891-6010**

**For inquiries, please call Mr. Roberto Meneses/Engr. Jenny Amog at 891-6161 local 4281/4282/4283 or 891-6298
or the Manager of the GSIS branch nearest you.**

Government Service Insurance System

Marcoses take back Ilocos politics

(From page 16)

ratings.

"But with the Marcoses behind Ablan, who knows," said an Ablan supporter.

If at all, the 2001 elections are also a referendum on the political clout of Governor Marcos, who is described by critics as only banking on his father's name to win an election.

"Governor Marcos can only claim his own clout if he can translate his popularity and charm among Ilocanos into votes for his candidates," local analysts said.

"We cannot strictly gauge the sentiments of the voters now (whether they are for Bongbong) because he has not been pitted against a real opponent," said political analyst Samuel Bangloy.

Bangloy claimed that Marcos' victory over Ablan in 1998 was "pre-arranged" just as the 2001 race was fixed in such a way that the governor and his sister would not face any opponent.

"The moment that more candidates identified with Fariñas come out in the elections, we may see him waging a fight against Bongbong three years from now," he said.

Precedents

Election precedents in the province have shown that the Marcoses' endorsement of one candidate does not spell victory in the elections.

In 1987, then neophyte gubernatorial candidate Fariñas was elected despite the support of the Marcoses to Manuela Ablan, mother of Roque Ablan.

Observers said the Marcoses wanted to test the extent of Fariñas' popularity when they threw their support to Col. Rolando Abadilla to run against Fariñas for governor in 1992.

But the Marcoses ended up endorsing Fariñas' candidacy over Abadilla.

Three years ago, Marcos chose Fariñas, who claims a strong mass base, as an ally in his comeback bid for governor after abandoning his earlier plans to run for a Senate seat.

After three terms as congressman, Ablan's logical choice for an elective seat was to run for governor, a post vacated by Fariñas.

Ablan, a known Marcos man since the days of the dictator, was to regain the old seat of his father, the late governor and war hero Roque Ablan Sr., before making his exit in politics.

Vice Gov. Mariano Nalupta Jr., a known Fariñas ally, was to be Fariñas' shoo-in candidate for governor to run against Ablan.

But the entry of Marcos Jr. had thrown alliances into different political fences. The 1998 elections saw the tactical alliance between Ablan and Nalupta after Marcos and Fariñas joined forces to capture key provincial posts.

Marcos eventually won when he squared off with Ablan for the gubernatorial post. His adopted running mate Renato Peralta, Fariñas' brother-in-law, lost to Nalupta.

For the May 14 elections, Marcos has adopted former provincial Board Member Windell Chua as his running mate to run against Peralta.

A three-term vice governor, Nalupta still filed his candidacy for the same post and is now awaiting a final decision from the Commission on Elections to validate his candidacy.

The Marcos-Fariñas alliance would later break up because of political and personal differences.

And there seems to be no end in the running feud between the erstwhile allies. The exchange of stinging tirades between Marcos and Fariñas has intensified by the day in the run up to the May 14 elections.

Accusing the Fariñas camp of displaying campaign materials bearing him and Representative Fariñas as a team, Marcos has declared that the Fariñases are incapable of winning an election without him.

"That only goes to show that they will not win without me. We do not want them anymore but they keep forcing themselves unto us," Marcos said.

Falling out

For his part, Fariñas said it is public knowledge that he was the one who severed his ties with Marcos.

"Marcos should not be twisting the truth here. I cut my ties with him because he is not worthy as a friend," Fariñas said in a recent press forum.

He said his feud with Marcos stemmed from personal differences and not from political skirmishes. "This is not a political (feud). It is personal because we were friends. He is used to being treated like a prince. He doesn't know how to show gratitude for a friend," he said.

The falling out began when Marcos publicly criticized Fariñas for poking a gun at a Briton over dinner at a local hotel two years ago.

Fariñas was also displeased that Marcos actively pursued the retrieval of provincial government property, vehicles and guns issued to him during his term as governor.

He said he did not need the Marcoses to win an election, claiming that he won as city mayor and governor without the help of the Marcoses.

"When I ran for governor, (in 1987) you (Marcoses) endorsed Mrs. (Manuela) Ablan (Roque's mother). Did you win? No. You do not own Ilocos Norte. I don't think you are Ilocos Norte," he said.

"The people of Ilocos Norte are independent. You are mistaken, Mr. Governor, in assuming that the Ilocanos are your puppets. They have learned their lesson."

That the Marcos family wants to return to the old years of the Marcos regime where all their support groups would be all over the province did not come as a surprise to Fariñas.

"Go back 30 years ago. Who were here? Only the Marcoses. (Now) they are all coming back," he said.

6 dead, 113 hurt in Mendiola

(From page A1)

arrow, a dagger going all the way to (Malacañang) Gate 7," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said. "If the gate is pierced, God help the Philippines."

From the Edsa Shrine, thousands of Estrada supporters marched to Malacañang starting at 2 a.m. yesterday after hearing a fiery speech from one of the speakers.

They breached five barricades put by the police on the 10-km stretch from the Edsa Shrine to Mendiola. *(See related story on Page A1)*

An intelligence agent, who monitored the activities of the pro-Estrada rally by pretending to be among the protesters, told the INQUIRER few minutes before the group left for Malacañang that a big number of the protesters were either drunk or high on drugs.

One Estrada loyalist, his eyes bloodshot, stopped at the 7-Eleven outlet on J.P. Laurel Street and Nagtahan and brandished a club. He shouted at the terrified customers inside: "We won." This was 3:30 a.m.

A bystander, who watched the violence at the 7-Eleven outlet, said the protesters looked like high on drugs.

Most of the young men looked pale and filled with energy, not unlike drug-crazed people.

Of the 103 protesters tested for *shabu* after their arrest, 10 were found positive for the illegal substance, according to Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. One was positive for marijuana.

Officials said people close to Estrada carefully planned the Edsa rally and the attack on the Palace.

Fatalities

A man was shot on Chino Roces Avenue and J.P. Laurel Street in San Miguel around 5 a.m. yesterday.

The victim was described as between 35 and 40 years old, medium-built, wearing striped shirt, Levi's jeans. He sustained multiple gunshot wounds on the face.

Two policemen were reportedly killed.

A protester armed with a *sumpak*, a homemade shotgun, killed one policeman.

Another policeman was killed when protesters ganged up on him after they overran a police barricade on Santol Street and Magsaysay Boulevard in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The opposition denounced the police operation while denying all responsibility.

Prepared

"You know how they rammed through the barricades, starting from Wilson (Street in San Juan). You cannot imagine how prepared this group was," Interior Secretary Joey Lina said in a news briefing.

Lina said the pro-Estrada demonstrators went to the Palace with their dump trucks ready. 'They have their spearhead, they brought with them firearms, some of them brought their own tear gas."

"You cannot just say this was spontaneous. I've never seen anything like this in the whole 17 years that I've been an activist," Lina said.

Like madmen on the loose, the Estrada loyalists strode into J.P. Laurel Street from Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard, flailing placards and throwing stones. This was at 3:30 a.m.

At the foot of the Nagtahan Bridge on UN Avenue, the Presidential Security Group deployed by 4 a.m. a Simba armored personnel carrier, blocking the southbound traffic. Troops manned machineguns on the sidewalks.

Gunfire blared and rocks and broken glass flew as police and Philippine Army soldiers began dispersing between 5,000 and 8,000 Estrada supporters around 10 a.m.

The protesters had massed near Gate 7 of the Palace and on J.P. Laurel and Mendiola Streets since 4 a.m.

Army soldiers, some of whom came from as far as Maguindanao, drew out Armalite rifles and led the dispersal, firing empty rounds in the air to drive away the crowd.

The dispersal turned the vicinity of Malacañang and Don Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge into a war zone. Gate 7 and the bridge were cleared in 30 minutes.

The protesters fought back block by block as the policemen threw tear gas and shooed them away with truncheons. Some smashed windows of the Centro Escolar University, San Beda College, San Sebastian College and University of the East.

Smoke enveloped the vicinity of the bridge and Recto Avenue as the protesters burned at least three pickup trucks owned by ABS-CBN and ABC-5, a mobile patrol unit and two motorcycles owned by the WPD and its field force units and a private car.

Also gutted were a backhoe equipment and the generator being used in the construction of the Light Rail Transit 2.

The excavation site provided the protesters with an unlimited supply of stones and concrete.

Upon reaching Quezon Boulevard, the loyalists split into three groups.

One went to Quiapo, the second to Sampaloc and the third to Sta. Cruz, which was the last to be dispersed.

A fourth group was driven by the police and soldiers to Magsaysay Boulevard in Sta. Mesa where the protesters overwhelmed and burned two ambulances.

Two mediamen, GMA-7's Jiggy Manicad and INQUIRER photographer Jess Yuson, suffered head injuries after being pelted with rocks by protesters during the dispersal.

About the same time, 10 other reporters and several policemen were trapped inside the Western Police District's community precinct on Roces Bridge for 15 minutes.

"We thought we were goners," said Kabayan's Christine Carranza.

The rioters smashed windows and threw rocks and clubs at the precinct. One protester even splashed gasoline into the detachment compound while others overturned an Army Jeep parked nearby and tried to set it on fire.

Soldiers and policemen rescued the trapped mediamen and policemen.

Retreating protesters vented their ire on almost anything that could be torn down and set on fire on C.M. Recto Avenue.

Smoke billowing from media and police cars burned by the mobs darkened the skies above the so-called University Belt, from the Mendiola Bridge to Morayta Street around 11 a.m.

"This is civil war!" said a male resident amid the explosions.

Residents on narrow alleyways along C.M. Recto put up barricades to prevent the unruly protesters from seeking refuge in their neighborhoods, while stores closed shop.

The protesters retreated to as far as the Light Railway Transit tracks on Rizal Avenue. They destroyed street signs and toppled vending machines along the way.

Fortunately, none of the big rocks and heavy metal objects landed on passing vehicles. The litter rendered the lane going to Quiapo impassable.

A standoff between some 20 anti-riot troops from the WPD SWAT team and a small group of Estrada loyalists took place at noon at the approach of Rizal Avenue from C.M. Recto.

Residents alerted police to a grenade left at the base of a lamppost on the sidewalk on Isetann Department Store, but the explosive turned out to be a smoke bomb picked up by the protesters.

Maintenance personnel of Isetann were seen bringing down promotional banners for fear that these could be set on fire by the mob.

Looting

As if looting was the order of the day, bystanders and residents took the contents of a Coke vending machine, which had been toppled by the demonstrators and left on the middle of C.M. Recto fronting Isetann.

Others were able to loot the cash box of the vending machine.

Estrada supporters looted another Coke vending machine near Rizal Avenue and C.M. Recto.

At around 1 p.m., Western Police District SWAT operatives were able to take control of the corner of Rizal Avenue and C.M. Recto after driving away a group of Estrada loyalists toward the Arranque Market.

Motorists complained that the loyalists were stoning passing LRT coaches on the overhead tracks.

When some Estrada supporters were regrouping, male residents in Sta. Cruz, angered by the looting, challenged them to a stone-throwing duel.

"Sir, we need arms," cried out a teenage bystander.

A SWAT policeman told the kibitzers to wait for the signal to advance, but a superior warned the residents against taking part in the dispersal.

"But it's our stalls which are being destroyed here," complained a storeowner. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

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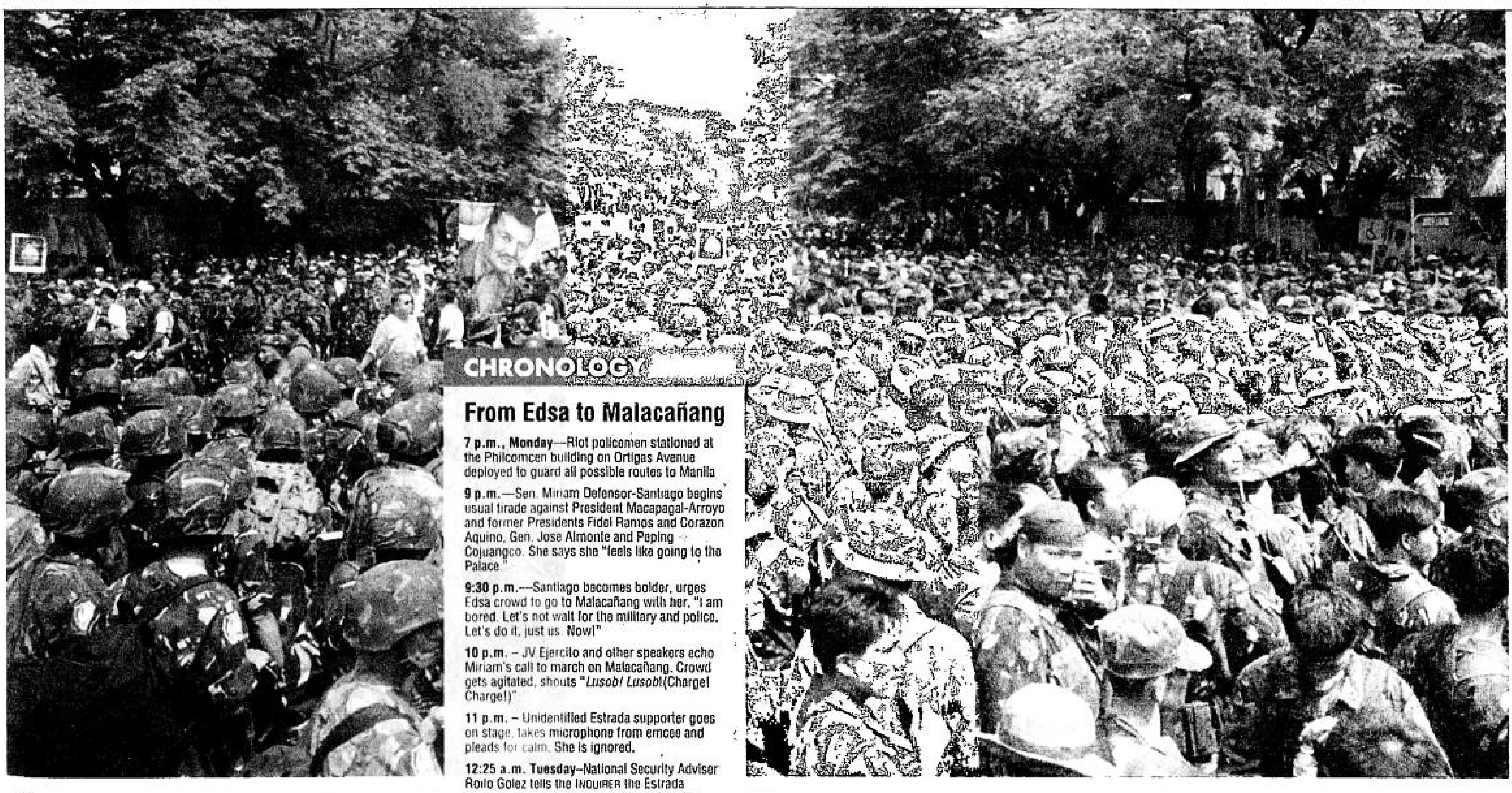

MILITARY troops reinforce the outnumbered policemen.

REPORTERS/ PHOTOGRAPHERS ON THE SCENE:

Armand Nocum
Dona Pazzibugan
Donna Cueto
Christine Avendaño
Michael Lim Ubac
Carlito Pablo
Christian Esguerra
Blanche Rivera
Martin Marfil
Juliet L. Javellana
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CHRONOLOGY

From Edsa to Malacañang

7 p.m., Monday—Riot policemen stationed at the Philcomcen building on Ortigas Avenue deployed to guard all possible routes to Manila

9 p.m.—Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago begins usual tirade against President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino, Gen. Jose Almonte and Peping Cojuangco. She says she "feels like going to the Palace."

9:30 p.m.—Santiago becomes bolder, urges Edsa crowd to go to Malacañang with her. "I am bored. Let's not wait for the military and police. Let's do it, just us. Now!"

10 p.m. – JV Ejercito and other speakers echo Miriam's call to march on Malacañang. Crowd gets agitated, shouts "*Lusob! Lusob!*(Charge! Charge!)"

11 p.m. – Unidentified Estrada supporter goes on stage, takes microphone from emcee and pleads for calm. She is ignored.

12:25 a.m. Tuesday–National Security Adviser Roilo Golez tells the INQUIRER the Estrada supporters could not succeed in their bid to storm Malacañang. "They can't come here. Stopping them is as easy as what you are doing right now...It's over."

1 a.m.—Ronald Lumbao, spokesperson of People's Movement against Poverty and organizer of the pro-Estrada rallies, makes the ultimate announcement. March on Malacañang now.

"We have waited long enough. We will now march to Malacañang to tell Ms Macapagal who we really want to lead us."

1:15 a.m.—Lumbao says short prayer for peace, courage and determination and then orders people to be disciplined and to move as one.

1:17 a.m.—About 50 anti-riot policemen take position behind the makeshift stage at the bridge and put up barbed-wire steel barricade after learning that the loyalists were already preparing to march to Malacañang. Mendiola prayer vigil participants prepare defense.

1:30 a.m.—50,000 Estrada loyalists march to Malacañang via Ortigas Avenue; few hundreds against Mendiola march remain at the Edsa Shrine while others go home

2:50 a.m.—Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos orders pro-administration crowd to retreat to San Beda College to allow anti-riot police to take position.

4:30 a.m.—Estrada loyalists try to reach the Palace through J.P. Laurel and Concepcion Aguila Streets. Warning shots are fired in the air, triggering a stampede among loyalists.

4:55 a.m.—Nagtahan and JP Laurel Streets occupied by the rallyists. PNP troops manning a checkpoint/ barricade withdraw.

5 a.m.—Mob regroups and breaks through the barricade.

5:15 a.m.—Crowd seizes Mendiola (Don Chino Roces) Bridge with little resistance from policemen

5:30 a.m.—Crowd from Mendiola advances toward Malacañang, passing Centro Escolar University and reaching Malacañang's Gate 7. Two rallyists hit by bullets

6 a.m.—Another group of rallyists emerges from Arlegui and joins intermittent confrontation of stones and teargas between government troops and the rallyists

10:30 a.m.—Hundreds of anti-riot policemen and soldiers start to disperse rallyists who are gathered in front of Gate 7 and drive the mob 150 meters back. The mob retreats toward Concepcion Aguila Street and policemen attack the rallyists using truncheons.

10:40 a.m.—INQUIRER photographer Jess Yuson and two unidentified policemen are hit in the head by stones. One of the policemen loses consciousness

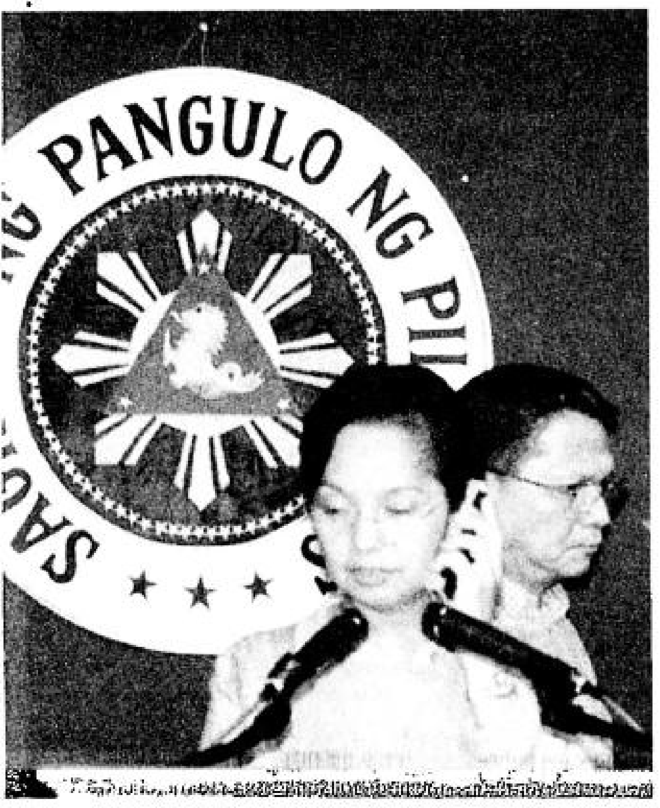
10:45 a.m.—Troops force the mob to retreat to Don Chino Roces Street. Retreating rallyists turn very aggressive, burning barricades and vehicles. They ransack a police detachment near the Mendiola bridge as they retreat farther.

10:50 a.m.—The mob turns to GMA-7 reporter Jiggy Manicad and hit by a stone. The mob destroys and burns a police patrol car as they move out of the bridge.

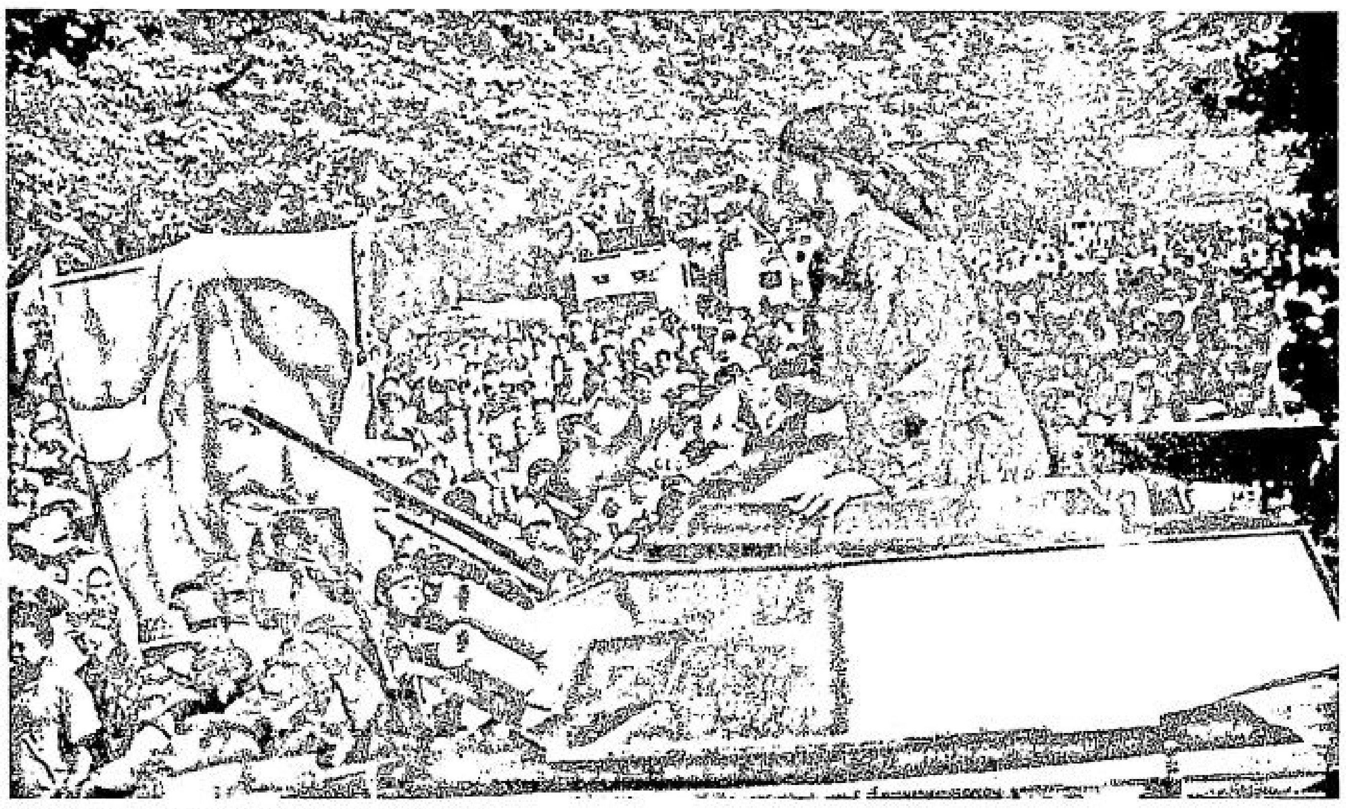
10:52 a.m.—Troops retreat and start to fire in the air; they attack the mob with teargas

11:30 a.m.—Mendiola is cleared of pro-Erap loyalists

By Michael Lim Ubac and Agnes Donato with a report from Carlito Pablo

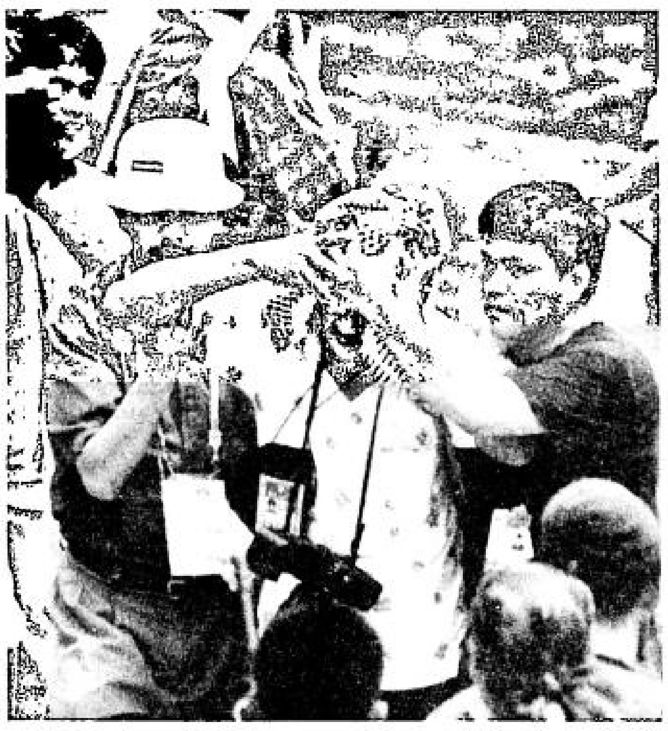


THE PRESIDENT smiles under pressure. It helps that Defense Secretary Reyes is around.



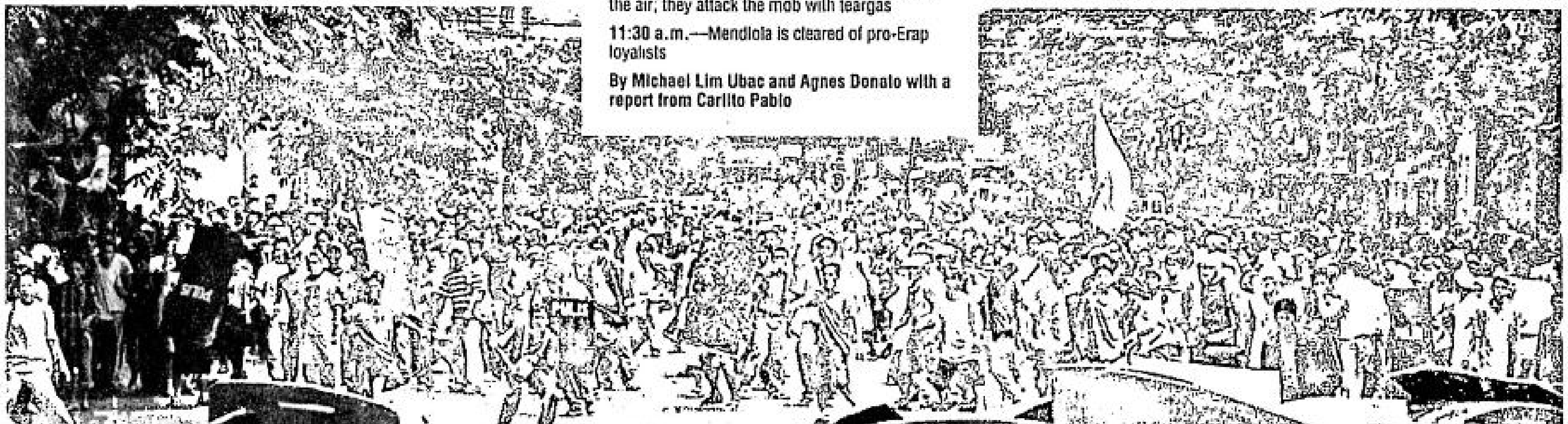
LOOK what's coming at the Estrada loyalists.

NO MATTER the peace sign, this protester gets a smack.

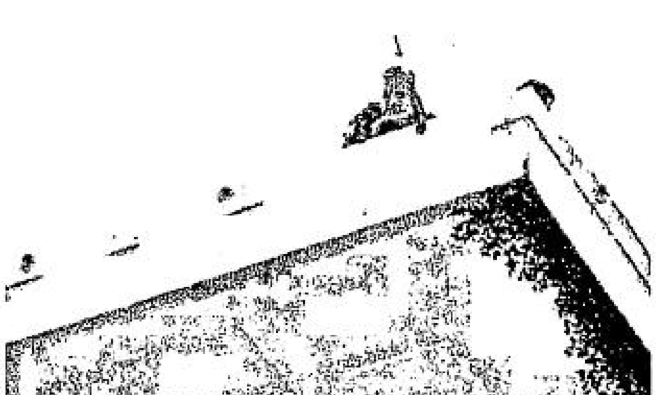


INJURED in the line of duty, INQUIRER photographer, Jess Yuson, was stoned during the dispersal of the demonstrators.

THE SLEEP of the weary: Probably still jet-lagged, a French photojournalist catnaps.



CAUGHT flat-footed by the size of the crowd at Mendiola facing Gate 7 of Malacañang, police quickly put its act together in the nick of time.



ON ROOFTOP of the Malacañang administration building, a sniper keeps close watch over the violence below.

Enrile arrested; gov't crackdown starts

(From page A1)

Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao II, People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) president Ronaldo Lumbao, and PMAP member Cesar Tañega.

Director Victor Batac, former chief of the PNP directorate for police community relations, and Senior Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, research division chief of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime, earlier surrendered to Berroya. Both denied having plotted the siege.

Batac, Mancao and Aquino were Lacson's trusted men at the PNP. Berroya said Mancao had sent surrender feelers.

"I totally deny that I was a participant to any cabal act or movement to undermine the stability of the republic," Enrile told reporters at Camp Crame.

"But they have to restudy the meaning of rebellion. What happened today does not fit the meaning of rebellion. I should know. I've been arrested many times before for rebellion," he said, adding:

"The government is very nervous about what happened (in Malacañang). There is some degree of the govérnment feeling threatened. But the declaration is not justified."

Fugitives

Honasan was not at his home in Marikina City when police came to arrest him.

Lacson has also made himself scarce, and issued a statement saying that he had instructed his lawyer to question not only his planned arrest but also his being put on the hold-departure list.

"I would like to caution the Arroyo administration against overreacting to the current crisis by committing transgressions of our basic constitutional rights, like illegal arrests, arbitrary detention, illegal searches and planting of evidence," he said.

Enrile, Honasan, Lacson and Santiago are all senatorial candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa, which is backed by jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Malajacan and Valeroso are closely identified with Honasan for being active members of the rightwing Rebo-lusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa.

Enrile denied having anything to do with the decision of the Estrada loyalists to march to Malacañang or having met with other opposition leaders to discuss the march.

He, along with Lacson, Maceda, Honasan and Santiago, was said to have pushed for the march during a meeting last week at Estrada's house in Greenhills, San Juan.

Enrile said politicians had a propensity to use hyperbole in addressing crowds in their speeches.

"But to harangue the crowd is different from instigating them into doing an illegal act," he said.

He admitted that he was aware of the plan to push through with the march on the Palace.

"I was at the Edsa Shrine on the eve of the march. The (protesters) were so agitated themselves. *Galit na sila.* So I told them. Look, your plan won't help Estrada any. I even warned them that they would be accosted because the Palace will be threatened. But they were very insistent," Enrile said.

"I don't think those people have a special love for me. Maybe for Erap. I have no link with them to move them at will to do anything and to move them to go to Malacañang," he said.

Confidence

Enrile said that when Berroya's group came to "pick me up as a suspect," he was not told of the charges against him.

"I did not want to give them a hard time, so I went with them to find out what I am being accused of," he said.

Berroya said, however, that Enrile was well aware of the reason for his arrest.

Asked if his arrest would set back his campaign, Enrile said: "It's too late to worry. I am confident and comfortable that the electorate would understand."

He said he would not ask his party mates to allow themselves to get arrested. "I leave it to them to exercise their discretion," he said.

Enrile also said he would be cleared of the charge. "I don't feel any apprehension, any anxiety, because I have not committed a crime," he said.

At the Edsa Shrine, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin lashed out at those behind the loyalist protests and the politicians who urged the crowd to attack Malacañang, saying: "The blood of innocent victims is on their hands."

"We are holding those who manipulated the poor accountable before God," Sin said in a homily at the Mass he celebrated in thanksgiving for the "takeover" of the shrine by "friendly forces" yesterday.

Sin told 6,000 people who attended the prayer rally and Mass that the vandalism and theft as well as the strewing of garbage and human waste at the historic shrine "should not be held against the poor."

"We are not against the poor folk and the masses. They are not to blame. We understand their plight. I ask the government to attend to their needs after all these have come to pass," he said, adding:

"Those who capitalized on the people's weaknesses will face the wrath of God."

Good witness

Perez said that as a former judge, Santiago could make a very good witness. But he said that he had yet to discuss the matter with Santiago, and that he was not sure whether she would agree to it.

Asked why she was not included in the list of those to be charged with inciting to sedition, Perez said no one had yet proved that she also helped agitate the loyalist crowd.

"No one has come forward stating that they have evidence against Senator Santiago, which is the reason why I have no information on whether she will be arrested or not," he said.

But leaders of militant groups bucked Perez's plan.

"No way! Anyone but the plotters," said Bayan Muna secretary general Nathanael Santiago.

"We urge the government not to enter into any compromise with Santiago or any of the ringleaders. The Macapagal administration should enforce the full force of the law against people who want to destabilize it," said Kilusang Mayo Uno chair Crispin Beltran.

In an interview over dzMM, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said of Santiago: "I even asked why she was not included (in the hold-departure list). The reason was she's not in the proper frame of mind."

Domingo said it was Perez who had ordered the issuance of the hold-departure order on Enrile et al. "based on initial findings that they are involved in the attempt to topple our government."

Earlier, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez caused a stir when he announced that an opposition senatorial candidate facing sedition charges was fleeing the country via the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Naia general manager Edgardo Manda immediately ordered the deployment of more security personnel to all possible exit points at the Naia terminals 1 and 2, Manila Domestic Airport and general aviation area, where the chartered planes are parked.

Golez's information turned out to be false.

Airport security forces have been on double red alert since Sunday night.

In a press conference, Manda announced the indefinite suspension of chartered flights.

He said a chartered plane would only be allowed to fly from the general aviation area in case of emergency and after securing approval from the Air Transportation Office.

Strong moves

People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Franklin Drilon expressed support for government moves to charge Estrada's ranking allies.

"I support strong moves at this time. They should be investigated and charged in court if there is evidence," said Drilon, a former Senate President and justice secretary.

Winnie Monsod, another PPC candidate, scoffed at claims by Estrada's allies that no one was leading the loyalist protests.

"Who is the fool who will believe that this was a spontaneous action? They're trying to fool us. It was executed with military precision," Monsod said.

"This is the height of irresponsibility. They incited the people to overthrow the government and yet left them to march to Malacañang without leaders," Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna, said of opposition leaders.

The KMU's Beltran echoed the call for the arrest of those who had instigated the violent loyalist action. He also called on the public to remain vigilant and protect the gains of People Power II.

In Naga City, Medardo Roda, secretary general of the Pinag-isang Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (Piston), said the loyalists' act of storming Malacañang under the supposed command of Santiago, Enrile, Honasan and Lacson was sufficient to prove that they were rebelling against the constituted authority.

He said the act of trying to topple the Macapagal administration was a desperate move of the four candidates to grab power and protect themselves.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said Estrada's son JV Ejercito and members of Jinggoy Estrada's League of Municipal Mayor should also be arrested.

Macapanton Abbas Jr., a lawyer of the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front, said all local and national candidates who incited the pro-Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine to storm Malacañang should be disqualified from running in the May 14 elections.

He said that by their act, "they have already committed one of the grounds for disqualification—disloyalty to the republic." ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, Andrea Trinidad-Echavez, Philip C. Tubeza, Christian Esguerra, TJ Burgonio, and Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'Rebellion' declaration raises alarm

(From page A1)

Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, who said that the government might restrict the freedom to assemble and hold demonstrations.

"Certain freedoms might be affected in order to serve the greater interest," he said in a press briefing.

"In a state of rebellion, the President can call the Armed Forces for help in quelling the rebellion," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told a news conference shortly after the declaration, which came before noon. Enforcing law and order is normally the job of the Philippine National Police.

The Department of Justice was yesterday in the process of drafting guidelines on the scope of powers and the rights to be allowed under the declaration, he said.

Tiglao did not specify what powers his boss would take upon herself under the declaration, other than to say that there would be no restrictions on basic freedoms.

But he promised that the government would not suspend the writ of habeas corpus, impose a curfew or clamp down on the press.

He said the state of rebellion would continue "until the leaders of the rebellion are arrested," defining rebels as "those who openly (engage in) armed activities to topple a duly constituted authority."

The crime of rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment.

Asked to describe the range of liberties affected by the declaration, Adan answered: "Anything that will increase the tension."

He stressed, however, that the AFP would wait for written guidelines from Malacañang on what the military is authorized to do under such a state.

On arrests

Some legal experts said the proclamation of rebellion authorized police forces to detain suspects without a court order, as well as to hold them in custody without filing charges.

Later, in a TV interview, Ms Macapagal sought to allay fears that martial law was in the offing.

"There are people who are rebelling. That's simply what a state of rebellion means . . . you can arrest the rebels," Ms Macapagal said in Filipino.

She read a provision in the Constitution that allows a president to call out the Armed Forces to "prevent, or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion."

"This is new to me," PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza said yesterday, admitting that he was "unsure" of the powers and role of the police under a state of rebellion.

Mendoza said the police would stick to their standing orders—to maintain peace and order in the metropolis.

Adan said that the military could also be involved in arrest operations. "Definitely, if it is in connection with rebellion," he said.

The declaration does not mean, however, that the AFP will be taking over peace-and-order keeping functions from the PNP, according to the military official.

"The mandate of the PNP has not been taken away," he said.

Mendoza described the arrests of protesters as citizen's arrests to justify the absence of warrants. Under the law, a police officer can arrest a person without a warrant if that person is performing a crime in front of the police officer or if it is a continuing crime, such as rebellion.

Acts of war?

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez implied that the President was forced into a corner.

"We are now in that state when there is a rebellion, we need to counter it with arrests. We will prosecute all those who participated," he said.

The secretary added that even Estrada's followers who do not actually attend his loyalists' rallies might be prosecuted "if they provide food and money" for the demonstration.

"Please understand, an act of war is an act of war even if you just stay home (but) provide food and money. You still participate," he said.

Tiglao argued that "this is not anymore a mere demonstration, or expression of sympathy. This is rebellion we are facing."

"We want this to stop. And we think we could stop this in a matter of hours," he said.

Tiglao said "in our view this rebellion is no different from the rebellion of the Abu Sayyaf," the group of kidnappers styling themselves as Moro freedom fighters in Sulu and Basilan.

He said the President was "very sad" about the turn of events and about how the "masses" were allegedly used.

"This is a crime, a criminal activity against the state," Tiglao said.

He said that the Revised Penal Code provided the government with the "option" of declaring a state of rebellion.

According to Article 134, "the crime of rebellion or insurrection is committed by rising publicly and taking arms against the government for the purpose of removing from the allegiance to said Government or its laws . . . or depriving the Chief Executive . . . (of) any of (his/her) powers or prerogatives."

Asked what they were doing to control the situation, Tiglao said "we can't say what we are doing, and what we will do."

"But we'd like to assure the public that the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police have been prepared for several days, and as we speak they are moving to quell the rebellion and stop its leaders," he said.

Tiglao said the government would have tolerated the demonstration had the protesters followed the law, but "now that they have started to make trouble, the full force of the law and the PNP will be mobilized against them."

Lawyers

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines, in a statement signed by its president, Arthur Lim, condemned the declaration as "obviously a prelude to, and the justification for, a declaration of martial law."

Lim called on the government to reconsider, arguing that "there is no rebellion taking place, only a state of lawless violence, and perhaps sedition."

Justice Secretary Perez quickly chastised Lim, saying "only the President has the discretion (to declare) whether there is rebellion or a state of rebellion. Only she has the prerogative to decide and mobilize the Armed Forces . . . (her decision) cannot be questioned."

"That declaration cannot be made by me or the IBP," he added pointedly.

But Theodore Te of the lawyers' organization Free Legal Assistance Group said declaring a state of rebellion was not specifically listed in the Constitution as among the emergency powers of the presidency.

Suspending writ

In the cases of invasion or rebellion, the President may additionally suspend the writ of habeas corpus or place the Philippines or any part of it under martial law for 60 days.

Congress may then extend the proclamation for a longer period.

The writ suspension would allow police to detain suspects for an indefinite period.

"The implication is we are unsure at the moment what the President has (declared)," Te said in a television interview.

"There might be something else that might be done. It might be critical for us to inquire," he added.

The declaration of a state of rebellion is designed to crush an attempt to grab power, not to deny the rights of citizens, Tiglao claimed.

Perez said the law allowed President Macapagal to declare a state of rebellion without congressional approval, which is required to declare a state of emergency or martial law.

Arrested offenders do not lose their civil rights. Section 18, Article 7 of the Constitution specifically states that even under martial law, the operation of the Constitution and the functions of the civil courts are not suspended.

Warnings, support

Former Executive Secretary, opposition Sen. Orlando Mercado and militant party-list group Sanlakas said that martial law could not be far behind, while Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the President to "exercise caution."

Pimentel said "we did not fight for our freedoms during martial law, in Edsa I and Edsa II, to allow a repeat of government abuses against our people."

The Puwersa ng Masa-LDP coalition slammed the declaration, while Macapagal supporters like administration senatorial bet Manny Villar and Leyte Rep. Sergio Apostol backed the President, saying she had "no choice."

Surprisingly, Crispin Beltran of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno approved of the declaration, but clarified that he did so not out of support for Ms Macapagal but to preserve the gains of People Power II.

Early yesterday, looking exhausted after a second consecutive sleepless night, Ms Macapagal made a nationally televised statement, blaming key opposition leaders for incensing the followers of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada in an effort to install a junta for their own benefit.

"The issue here is justice and our capacity to enforce the law. It is my duty as President to enforce the law," she said.

She said two policemen guarding the Palace were killed by protesters and commiserated with their families

"The vandalism, robbery and injury and deaths are the work of these politicians," the President said.

"They should be blamed for all of this. They will be made to answer to the country for these crimes," she said in a hastily called press conference in Malacañang at 9:15 a.m

Situation stabilized?

In a press briefing yesterday morning, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said: "We can assure the public that Malacañang is safe and that the President is fully in control."

Mendoza described the situation in the metropolis as "stabilized," saying "everything is back to normal" after demonstrators were dispersed

From the original 2,000-man strength of Task Force Libra, the anti-coup force grew in number to 3,000 yesterday.

Adan said the AFP is prepared to move in at least two more battalions into Metro Manila.

Checkpoints in the metropolis will be put up to counter the movements of supporters of ousted President Estrada.

While claiming that the worst may be over, "we have to assume that there will still be pockets of troublemakers," Adan said.

All day yesterday, Camp Aguinaldo was in a flurry. Two MG-520 attack choppers and two Huey helicopters were on standby. Trucks full of battle-ready soldiers were constantly leaving and entering the camp. Transport buses hired from a private firm were also placed on standby for quick dispatch of troops.

Armored fighting vehicles were parked in front of the AFP General Headquarters Building, which houses the military's high-tech war room.

Government troops tied white ribbons on the muzzles of their rifles for extra identification, in the event of a shootout with an armed group. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño, Cathy Yamsuan, Armand N. Nocum, Philip Tubeza, Gerald Lacuarta, Juliet Javellana; Ma. Diosa Labiste, Raj Padilla, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Carla P. Gomez, Cynthia A. Borgueta, Joey Gabieta, Alex V. Pal, Gerry T. Pagharion and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP and AP***

Estrada loyalists . . .

(From page A1)

the road, but the demonstrators just walked around them.

Riot police, numbering around only 20, merely stood and watched on one side of the road as the marchers streamed past.

"*Maraming salamat, sa inyo mga mamang pulis! Sumama na kayo* (Many thanks to the police. Join us)!" the Estrada supporters called to them, flashing the V-sign with their fingers.

Only as the sun began to rise did authorities seem to realize how many people they were dealing with.

Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza said all five barricades set on the route to Malacañang were "overrun."

He could not explain how the police and military, on red alert for days, had failed to prevent the protesters from reaching the Palace, except to say that they did not expect them to use dump trucks.

"The protesters were so many," Mendoza said.

But security was lax Monday night on Mendiola: People were freely moving around, with troops even clearing the way for them because they thought that they were going to a pro-government rally at the intersection of Mendiola and Legarda streets.

Around 70 officers were visibly in a daze when the massive crowd arrived at Mendiola bridge. There was no ground commander to coordinate the actions of police.

By daybreak, the crowd had grown to immense proportions and controlled the whole stretch of Don Chino Roces Street—from Mendiola bridge to Gate 7 of Malacañang on J.P Laurel Street.

About a thousand representatives of Edsa People Power II forces had earlier gathered at the foot of the historic bridge, but had to retreat to San Beda College to seek cover from the advancing sea of Estrada supporters.

Long march

The huge crowd at the Edsa Shrine started its long march to Malacañang at 1:30 a.m.

Blockades, civil disturbance units and anti-riot policemen initially succeeded in slowing them down, but police who were later caught flat-footed said the loyalists literally came from everywhere.

Most of the marchers were young men and boys naked from the waist up, sweaty but otherwise seemingly unaffected by long nights at Edsa.

Many carried rocks, knives and wooden planks.

An intelligence agent marching undercover with the group advised the INQUIRER to be extra careful of protesters with shaved heads or with tattoos.

Some, he said, were armed with icepicks, switchblades and homemade shotguns, known as *sumpak*.

One INQUIRER reporter caught up with the marchers on Aurora Boulevard near the SM Centerpoint. By then, their ranks filled both lanes and stretched as far as the eye could see.

The marchers screamed and chanted their disgust with the Macapagal administration, vowing to oust the fledgling government by any means.

"*Patalsikin si Gloria! Ibalik si Erap! Andyan na kami! Maghanda na kayo*!" they shouted.

On the way to the Palace, the marchers left a trail of minor destruction. At one point, they broke the glass doors of a 7-Eleven branch in Altura, Sta. Mesa. Glass, debris and various types of footwear lined the route they had taken. Construction sites were divested of lead pipes, wooden planks, hollow blocks, stones—anything that could be used as a weapon.

Police try but fail

Unknown to the marchers, members of the PNP Crowd Dispersal Control Management had been stationed in at least five strategic locations along the some 10-km stretch from the shrine to the Palace.

At the intersection of Ortigas Avenue and Annapolis Street, anti-riot policemen armed with truncheons, shields and tear gas canisters tried to block them but failed.

Using a dump truck, the crowd took only about 10 minutes to overrun the anti-riot team.

Near the corner of Santolan Road and Gilmore Avenue, the marchers met a second group of police.

The confrontation lasted only for about five minutes, at the end of which, some of the anti-riot policemen had been disarmed of their shields and truncheons by fighting protesters.

At the intersection of Mapa Street and Magsaysay Boulevard in the Sta. Mesa district, a large anti-riot contingent was waiting.

It was the first fierce fighting between the anti-riot squad and the marchers.

The police used teargas against the protesters who fought back by hurling stones, bottles and whatever they could get their hands on.

Several shots rang in the air, and it was during this 30-minute confrontation that at least a dozen people were reported injured on both sides.

A still unidentified pro-Estrada marcher was rushed to the nearby Lourdes Hospital in Mandaluyong and was reported dead an hour later.

A policeman was also reportedly shot dead by a pro-Estrada protester using a homemade shotgun. The still unidentified policeman was the first casualty on the government side.

The police tried to disperse them with water cannons, but those were no match against their will to reach Malacañang, which was only few kilometers away.

Unchallenged

Unchallenged by police, the marchers entered the J.P. Laurel gate of the Palace around 4 a.m., two hours after they left the shrine.

Anti-riot police stood by helplessly as the marchers flooded past them. The demonstrators cheered their victory lustily and mugged and posed for TV cameras.

Shortly past 5 a.m., the marchers managed to invade the Mendiola area through Concepcion Aguila Street, even as shots rang from inside the Palace compound.

Around 15 minutes later, the marchers at Mendiola broke through the phalanx of riot policemen, sending the authorities scampering for safety.

"*Andito na kami, malapit na ang ating tagumpay*," the marchers yelled.

On the other side of Don Chino Roces Street, another group of loyalists had engaged anti-riot policemen and Marines in battle, amid flying rocks and clouds of teargas.

Not even a volley of warning shots from M-14 rifles dissuaded the loyalists from leaving Concepcion Aguila and J.P. Laurel streets.

Two become one

Later, police and military troops pushed the first group back to Concepcion Aguila Street but the contingent at the foot of the Mendiola Bridge breached the anti-riot cops barricading them. Soon, the two groups were one.

It took only an hour before the loyalists laid claim to the stretch of Don Chino Roces Street, which is sandwiched between San Beda College and Centro Escolar University.

At 5:15 a.m., chanting, dancing, singing and, waving flags, the marchers turned Don Chino Street into a giant stage as anti-riot policemen sought cover near San Beda.

The jubilant marchers occupied the length and breath of the Mendiola bridge, the site of many anti-Estrada rallies.

Several loyalists tried to scale the Palace gates but were driven away. They were eventually turned back about 200 meters away from the gates by police and members of the Presidential Security Group.

Together, they tried to rush the Palace gates but were stopped by a more resolute force of anti-riot police and Marines. ***With a report from Donna S. Cueto***

Erap mob shames newspapers

(From page A1)

gest case yet on the inaccuracy of newspaper accounts about their so-called "Edsa Tres."

Splashed on the front pages of most newspapers on Tuesday were stories on how an alleged attempt to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo and restore Estrada to power had been foiled.

The headlines came a day too soon.

Far from being a spent force as newspapers reported, thousands of Erap loyalists stormed Malacañang shortly before dawn, venting their rage in an orgy of looting and vandalism unseen in Metro Manila since the fall of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos 15 years ago.

The INQUIRER, for instance, carried the banner story, "WHY POWER GRAB FAILED."

The Philippine Star, on the other hand, had the headline, "Arroyo: Power grab fizzled out," accompanied by a sidebar on how cracks in Estrada's camp aborted the alleged coup.

The Manila Standard played up the same story: "Power Grab Nipped; plot leaders known." It was backed by another story on how Estrada's family and friends were spending P200 million a day to keep the big crowd at the Edsa Shrine.

Malaya also ran the story on its front page but the staid Manila Bulletin completely ignored it.

Still, the headline of the only Filipino broadsheet in the market, Kabayan, screamed: "Edsa 3 tapos na!" There was a story on its second page about the various factions in the Estrada camp.

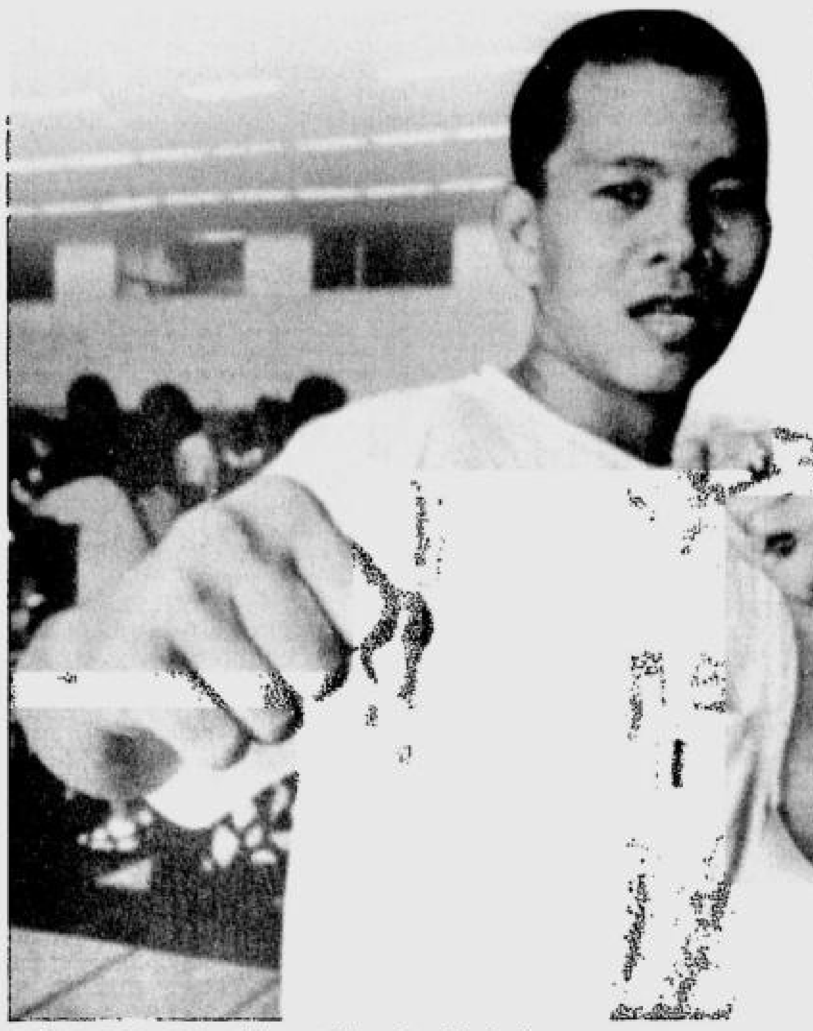
Never have so many newspapers gotten it wrong.

All radio and TV stations, which rely on broadsheets for their early morning news trail, were also caught off-guard by what happened.

Government troops eventually quelled the riots.

But it was the first time a mob had managed to reach the heavy iron gates of the Palace complex since Marcos was toppled in the first Edsa People Power uprising of 1986.

Salud: I will resign if Gerry loses crown



PEÑALOSA: Scientific nutrition should do it. FILE PHOTO

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SPORTSMAN-LAWYER Rudy Salud said yesterday he will resign as Gerry Peñalosa's manager if his ward fails to keep his WBC International Superflyweight crown against Japanese Keiji "The Prince" Yamaguchi at the Araneta Coliseum on Saturday.

Speaking at the PSA Forum, Salud said Gerry's defeat would practically mean he was inefficient as manager for Team Peñalosa.

Peñalosa is defending the crown for the second time after he knocked out Thai Rathanachai Sor Vorapin in six rounds at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque last year.

"Gerry's career may not end with losing but my career as manager must end because if he loses, it will show that the program that I have laid out for him is not effective," said Salud, a former PBA commissioner and MJCI president.

Salud, however, has reasons to feel confident considering the preparations the 28-year-old Peñalosa had undergone.

He particularly cited Peñalosa's four-month training in the Roy Jones boxing camp in Pensacola, Florida.

He also said Team Peñalosa has adopted a scientific approach to Gerry's nutritional requirements.

For the past six months, Salud said Gerry's nutritionist, Sanirose Orbeta, has been strictly monitoring the former WBC superflyweight champion's diet.

He also said Team Peñalosa hired a sports psychologist, who will be responsible for Gerry's mental orientation before fight night.

A Peñalosa victory would mean an automatic crack at the WBC superflyweight diadem held by Masamori Tokuyama, a Japanese-based North Korean.

Tokuyama is scheduled to defend his title against South Korean In Joo Cho on May 20 in Seoul, with the winner defending next against Peñalosa.

Peñalosa, holding a 42-3-2 record with 26 KOs, will face a southpaw in Yamaguchi, a former WBA junior flyweight titlist armed with a 29-6-1 record with 11 KOs.

Peñalosa's brother and trainer, Dodie Boy, said Gerry had sparred more than 70 rounds. He said the fight would not last the distance if the 27-year-old Japanese elects to slug it out.

"It all depends on the style Yamaguchi uses. If he opts to run similar to In Joo Cho's style, the fight might last for 12 rounds. But if he chooses to slug it out, Gerry will win in six rounds," said Dodie Boy in Tagalog.

Spurs oust Timberwolves, 97-84

MINNEAPOLIS —Tim Duncan scored 24 points and David Robinson added 21 as the San Antonio Spurs wrapped up their first-round series against Minnesota with a 97-84 victory.

The Spurs, 3-1 winners of the series, will play the winner of the Dallas-Utah series. They also knocked the Wolves out of the first round in 1999, before going on to win the NBA title.

The Wolves lost in the first round for the fifth time in as many seasons. Their 0-5 series record in the playoffs is the worst among all NBA franchises.

Minnesota's Anthony Peeler and Terrell Brandon, both scoreless in the first half, hit back-to-back 3-pointers Monday night with less than six minutes left as the Timberwolves rallied from a 10-point deficit to make it 75-73. But a pair of baskets by Robinson pushed the Spurs' lead to 79-73.

Brandon hit another jumper, but a pair of free throws by Tim Duncan and a 3-pointer by Danny Ferry pushed the Spurs' lead to 84-75 with 3:13 remaining. The Wolves never got within seven points the rest of the way.

The Wolves' Wally Szczerbiak scored 20 points, giving him 38 over the last two games. He was held to 18 points in the first two games of the series

Kevin Garnett added 19 points, and Brandon finished with 17.

Robinson played the fourth period with four fouls. He picked up his fourth with 4:26 remaining in the third period, and the Spurs leading 63-57.

They took a 71-63 lead into the fourth quarter, with the help of 3-pointers by Ferry and Antonio Daniels. They both made four 3-pointers for the game. Ferry finished with 18 points, and Daniels had 16 *AP*

Lakers appear better now than 2000 champion team

LOS ANGELES—Only a month ago, the Los Angeles Lakers appeared in trouble, a fractious team going nowhere while attempting to successfully defend its first NBA championship in 12 years.

Now, the Lakers not only appear the team to beat, but perhaps improved over the group that won the title last June.

"We might be a little better, especially mentally," Kobe Bryant said after the Lakers beat Portland for the third straight time Sunday to complete their first sweep of a playoff series in 10 years.

"What we did to Portland, closing this out in their building in a sweep, was not happening last year." Rick Fox said.

"They are a monster," Portland coach Mike Dunleavy said. "I don't know if there is anybody that has an opportunity to beat them."

The Lakers have a full week to rest and prepare for the second round, which begins next Sunday at Staples Center. They'll face the winner of the Sacramento-Phoenix series, which the Kings lead 2-1.

Despite winning the championship, the Lakers appeared vulnerable at times during last year's playoffs.

In the first round, they beat the Kings twice, then lost two at Sacramento.

Then, after three wins over Phoenix, they lost 117-98.

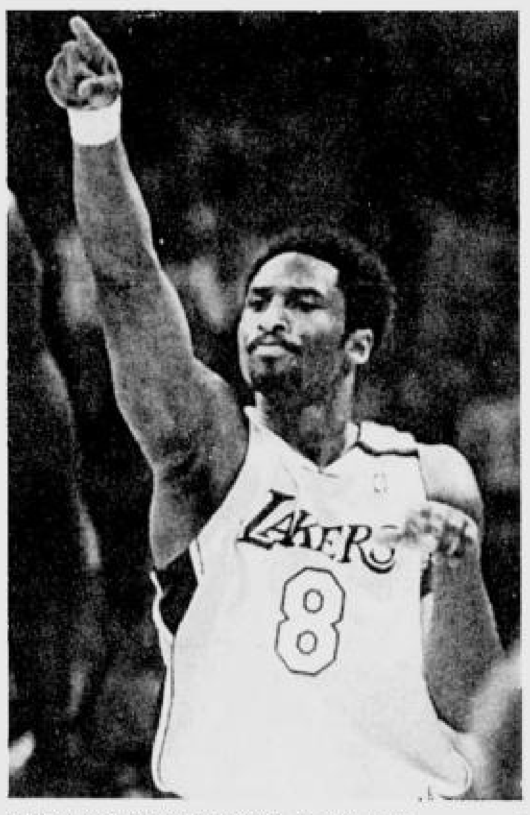
There was a 29-point loss to Portland in the Western Conference finals, and a 33-point thrashing by Indiana in the NBA Finals before the Lakers eventually won the title.

The Lakers, 67-15 during the regular season, finished 4-6 in playoff elimination games, but those four wins put them over the top.

They appeared improved this season, especially defensively, with the addition of Horace Grant at power forward and the inclusion of Fox in the starting lineup, considered a more complete player than the departed Glen Rice.

However, Derek Fisher missed the first 62 games following surgery for a stress fracture in his right foot a much bigger loss than many realized until he returned; Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal feuded openly in midseason and missed playing time because of injuries; and stabilizing factor Ron Harper hasn't played since mid-February because of a knee injury.

With Bryant sidelined, the Lakers lost 104-83 at Phoenix March 26 and 108-84 to visiting Sacramento two nights later. *AP*



BRYANT: "A little better, mentally." AP

Milo Marathon to celebrate 25th year

THE NATIONAL Milo Marathon, a revered annual tradition for Philippine runners young and old, amateur and professional, and the most prestigious event of its kind in the country, will start celebrating its 25th year next month.

A full 42K marathon will be held for the first time in the Metro Manila qualifying event on June 24. All previous Metro Manila qualifying runs have been limited to 20 kilometers.

In addition, the next Milo Marathon, the longest in existence locally, will have new levels of excitement due to increased participation by schools.

Corporate sponsor Nestle Philippines incorporated the 42K event in the Metro Manila qualifying round in response to numerous requests for the holding of an open full marathon in the country, said Jackby Jaime of Milo.

Jaime said cash prizes for the 42K are P30,000, P20,000, and P10,000 for the top three finishers respectively, both in the men's and women's categories.

Heightened rivalry among school teams is being anticipated as schools can now field their own respective marathon teams.

This year's marathon also promises to be crowd-drawers as more entertainment will be provided.

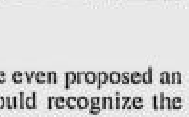
The presence of celebrity runners and the media run along with other sports exhibitions, games and other fun activities for children are also scheduled.

The 42K route will proceed from Manila through Pasay, Parañaque, Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, and back to Manila via Edsa.

RA 9064 unfair to non-Olympians

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



THE LONG wait has ended.

Finally, your long-suffering and neglected athletes can look forward to a better tomorrow with the recent signing by President Macapagal of Republic Act 9064 which grants them cash incentives for outstanding performances. It was, in these troubled times, like a balm to soothe their wounded feelings.

Still, to my thinking, the law is defective, unfair and discriminatory because it does not recognize non-Olympic sports like bowling, billiards and golf where Filipino champions have placed the Philippines in the world sports map.

Before the landmark measure was passed by Congress, Rizal Rep. Gilberto Duavit, principal author of the bill, told me there was no discrimination in the measure, saying the emphasis to reward the athletes was based on fairness and equality. The solon, who once served in the defunct Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, added he even proposed an amendment that would recognize the extraordinary exploits of medal winners in non-Olympic sports such as Efren "Bata" Reyes in billiards, Paeng Nepomuceno, the late Lita de la Rosa and Bong Coo in the World Bowling Cup and Dorothy Delasin, who won a leg of the prestigious Ladies Professional Golf Association tour in the United States.

However, Duavit said that for whatever reason or miscommunication the reconciled bill deleted the achievements of Reyes, Nepomuceno, Coo and Delasin. Even then he stressed that he was 100 percent behind the recognition of these athletes who brought honors to the Philippines at no government expense, hoping that the next Congress will make amends and give them due recognition.

Meanwhile, Angel Nepomuceno, father-coach of four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, clarified that the P2 million given to his son was for winning the 1999 World Tenpin Masters title in London and not for winning his unprecedented four World Cup titles. Angel said that had the bill recognized the four World Cup victories, Paeng would have earned P1.5M for each victory or a total of P6M.

Paeng won a total of P3M, including the P1M gratuity from the Philippine Sports Commission, in 30 years of bowling, an amount which is just the salary for six months of a PBA marquee player who is not even a world champion. Can you beat that?

By the way, the World Cup is the largest, most prestigious and most difficult bowling tournament in the planet. It is not a competition where anyone can just join from year to year. Before the World Cup competitor emerges, he must win an arduous weekly national elimination series, then the center finals and the national finals which take about 100 games and three months to complete.

"In my case," explained 44-year-old Paeng, "I undergo rigid training and mental discipline before proceeding to the country where the World Cup is being held for that year."

On his four World Cup victories, Paeng said, "It is unfortunate that bowling is not an Olympic sport. And yet, I treasure my World Cup achievements perhaps in the same way Tiger Woods would appreciate his numerous titles in golf, which is another non-Olympic sport."

Explaining that he was not after the cash incentives or the recognition that goes with winning, Paeng said, "It suffices that I proudly carry the flag and bring honors to the country and the Filipino people. That is my reward."

Good news

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

AFTER several months of waiting, horse owners have been informed by Philracom officials that the 2001 budgets for operations as well as the traditional calendar of stakes races has finally been approved. We do not begrudge Chairman Benedicto K. Katigbak's decision to withhold any announcement of the stakes calendar until stakes monies were officially provided for. No other steward of the Philracom has raised as much money for a calendar year's racing as Chairman Katigbak has. His detractors can chew on their petty concerns but this chairman has consistently delivered the goods, even during this most difficult of times when the nation is in turbulent transition.

2001 Philracom triple crown championship

1. ELIGIBILITY: Open to all three year-old locally-born horses that have participated in a race.
2. THREE-LEG SERIES: 1st Leg: COJUANGCO CUP (In honor of the first Chairman of Philracom, Ambassador EDUARDO M. COJUANGCO, JR.) 20 May 2001, Sunday 1,600M. PRCI
2nd Leg: J. V. ONGPIN CUP (In honor of the former Secretary of Finance, the late Hon. JAIME V. ONGPIN) 10 June 2001, Sunday 1,900M. MJCI
3rd Leg: HORSEMAN'S CUP (In honor of a person who has made a notable contribution to the progress of the horseracing industry - to be designated by the Philracom Board) 08 July 2001, Sunday 2,045M. MJCI
3 HANDICAPPING: SET WEIGHTS COLTS: 55 kgs. FILLIES: 53kgs.
4. PURSE (ADDED TO THE PRIZE OF THE DAY FOR EACH LEG): 1st - P1million; 2nd - P375,000.00; 3rd - P208,500.00; 4th - P83,500.00
5. FEES (PER HORSE FOR EACH LEG): nomination: P4,000.00 Declaration: P6,000.00 Acceptance: P20,000.00 - To be paid at the club hosting the event
6. SCHEDULE OF NOMINATION/DECLARATION AND ACCEPTANCE:

	Nomination/declaration	acceptance
1st Leg	30 April 2001	03 May 2001, PRCI
2nd Leg	22 May 2001	24 MaY 2001, MJCI
3rd Leg	19 June 2001	21 June 2001, MJCI

Should there be a dominant three-yr-old, and from the looks of things, Silver Story is the real deal, a Triple Crown sweep could earn such a horse more than P3.5 million. The amount of purse money for stakes provided by the Philracom augurs well for the local breeder. The cost of weanlings and yearlings will definitely go up. Sky's the limit for quality horseflesh.

PAL's back

If our faithful readers were wondering where we had disappeared to these last two Wednesdays, we were in Sydney for a little look-see with major stops at Wm. Inglis for their Easter Yearling Sales and Royal Randwick for Oaks Day.

We flew down to Sydney on PAL having been enticed to avail of a promo package that was really a no-brainer in terms of cost. We were also curious to try PAL service to see how it compared to the halcyon days of the late 70's and early 80's.

We were pleasantly surprised. PAL's Airbus 300 seating is as comfortable as seating found on aircraft employed by competing airlines. Food is quite adequate but could be improved on a bit. Wines did pale in comparison to those served by other airlines, but that's a given, knowing the penny-pinching ways of current management. However, you can't beat the smile of the Pinay, even when she soils the linen by spilling the wine during a moment of turbulence. On behalf of my wife, Tina and myself, we'd like to acknowledge Flight Stewardess Mona Navasero on Flt. 210, Sydney to Manila, on 25th April 2001, for having made our return trip home a pleasant one.

PAL's back on the Sydney run. Mabuhay.

Kentucky Derby hopefuls

Here are the leading candidates for this weekend's Kentucky Derby (5 May 2001). The Run for the Roses is described as the greatest two minutes in all of sport. NBC covers the 127th running live from 5-630 P. M. EST. Listed also are their individual trainers as well as pedigrees.

1- -POINT GIVEN (Bob Baffert/Thunder Gulch-Turko's Turn, by Turkoman), 2- - CONGAREE (Bob Baffert/Arazi-Mari's Sheba, by Mari's Book), 3— MONARCHOS (John Ward/Maria's Mon-Regal Band, by Dixieland Band), 4 - DOLLAR BILL (Dallas Stewart/Peaks and Valleys-Saratoga Game, by Saratoga Six), 5- - BALTO STAR Todd Pletcher/Glitterman-Miss Livi, by Devil's Bag), 6- MILLENNIUM WIND (Dave Hofmans/Cryptoclearance-Bali Babe, by Drone), 7 - A P VALENTINE (Nick Zito/A.P. Indy-Twenty Eight Carat, by Alydar), 8– JAMAICAN RUM (James Cassidy/Exemplary Leader-Little Ricky S., by Runaway Groom), 9- - EXPRESS TOUR (Saeed bin Suroor/Tour d'Or-Express Fashion, by Private Express), 10– THUNDER BLITZ (Joe Orseno/Holy Bull-Rasant, by Assert), 11- - FIFTY STARS (Steve Asmussen/Quiet American-My Bubbling Belle, by Tsunami Slew), 12— INVISIBLE INK (Todd Pletcher/Thunder Gulch-Conquistress, by Conquistador Cielo).

Poculan new hero for Shell-Yamaha

SHELL-YAMAHA Racing Team found a new hero in Carl Poculan as it asserted its superiority for the third time in as many months in the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Yamaha here Sunday

Poculan provided the biggest triumphs for the multi-awarded Shell-Yamaha team, posting back-to-back victories in the open production 250 and production 125 categories before a wildly-cheering crowd in this island paradise known as the country's "Last Frontier."

Poculan, who begged off from participation last year to concentrate on his studies, defeated Johnny Garcia, Andot Rubi, Bel Vasaya and Glen Miguel in the open production 250.

He made it a double celebration by ruling the equally-exciting production 125 over teammate Carlo Leongson and Juno Villena.

"We're really very happy for Carl," said Shell-Yamaha team captain and 1994 champion Ernie Leongson. "His twin victories in the production categories proved that he is really one of the brightest new stars of motocross and that he deserves his place with the team."

Despite his dual role in the team, Leongson also made his presence felt by finishing a strong second in the pro open category behind former Shell-Yamaha rider Glen Aguilar.

SPORTSWATCH

Pamaybay tops 'election' run

VETERAN Tirso Pamaybay topped the Salonpas 5K Run for Clean Elections in Cebu City last Sunday morning. Starting and ending at the Capitol grounds, the race, which attracted 218 runners from all over the province, was held to call attention for the need to have a clean and honest election on May 14. Pamaybay, 29, a physical education masteral student of the South Western University, clocked 16:32 and went home P3,000 richer for his effort. Second placer in the race, which was supported also by Hidden Spring Water, New Balance, Frozz Candy, Polar Heart Rate Monitor, and Publicis-AMA, was 19-year-old Arvin Lubiranes from Mandaue who conceded to Pamaybay when the latter pulled away from him.

Flores, Quitalig pace duckpin

JUN Flores and Sonia Quitalig rolled big games recently to take the early singles (A/B) lead in the ongoing Grand National and Youth duckpin bowling championships at the Puyat Sports Center in Manuela III. Flores tallied 397 pins to pace Cadba teammate Jun Santos (378), Bert Sales (375), Lino Arroyo (370), Alex Pascual (367), Dino Ilustrisimo (367) and Tom Moreno (367) in the men's division. Bidba's Quitalig carded 387 to move ahead of Maa Aregla (385), Ruby Villamil (382), Cecille Ubana (379), Me-Anne dela Cruz (360), Geena Gregorio (358) and Nora Certeza (352) in the ladies' competition.

De Ramos scores perfect 6

AFTER four consecutive tries, Letran junior chesser Joseph Julius de Ramos came out in front with a perfect score of six points in the Kiddies Active Open qualifiers held at the Grandmasters Café in Quezon City last Monday. The 14-year-old woodpusher, a participant of both the previous kiddies and juniors tourney under the Philippine Chess Society Summer Youth Camp, will advance to the U-14 grand finals set for May 9. Entries include meet champions Ivan Gil Bing and the Banawa brothers, Jake and Cholo. Also giving out respectable performances last Monday in the competition participated in by 38 chessers are Arvin Dableo, Leo Dapon, Vic Neil Villanueva, Chester Villapana and Nelson Mariano III.

Kansas City stops Toronto, 6-3

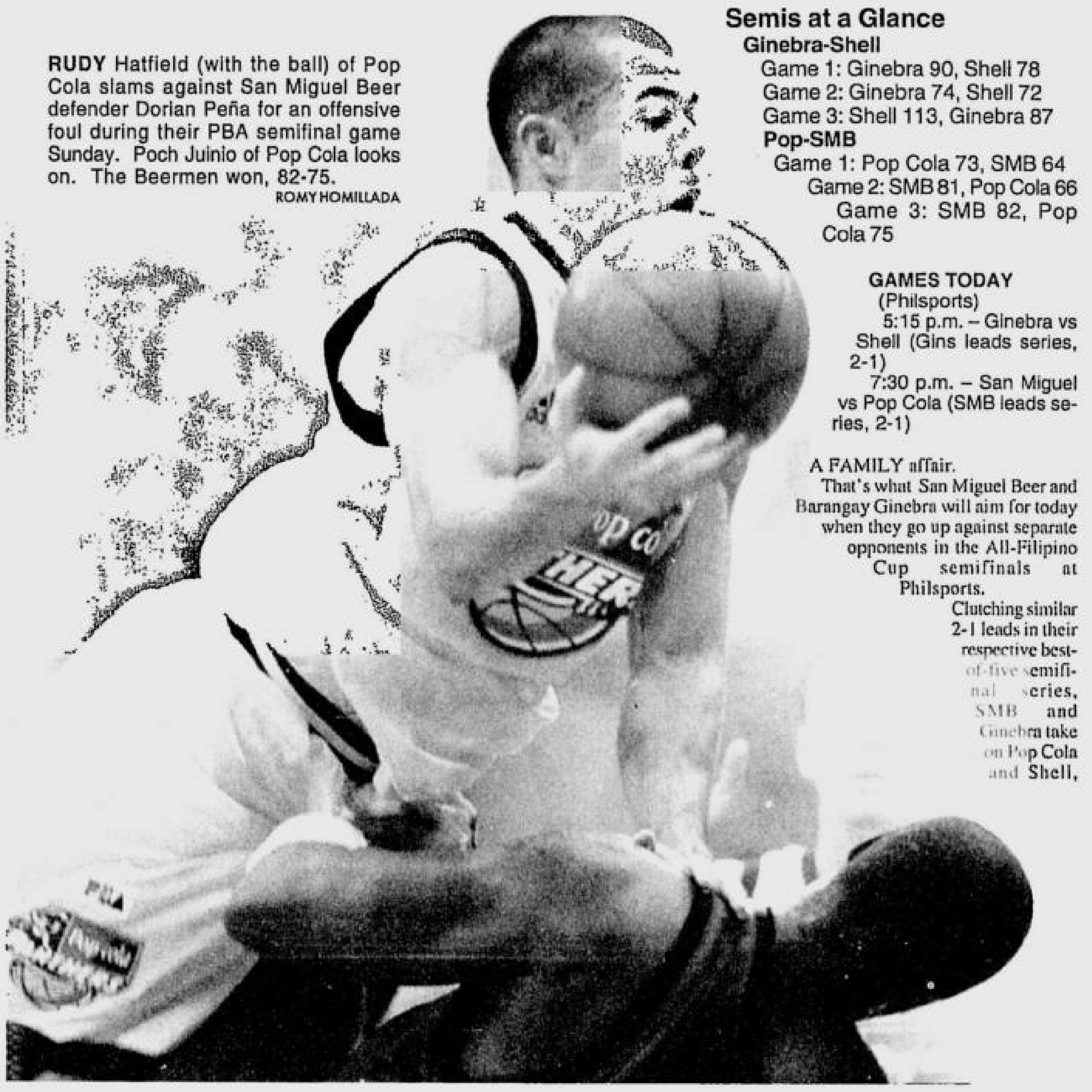
TORONTO—Mike Sweeney hit his sixth homer of the year, all of them against Toronto, and the Kansas City Royals won their third straight, 6-3, over the Blue Jays. Sweeney went 3-for-4 with two RBIs for the Royals, who won the season series 4-3. Monday night's game was originally scheduled for April 12, but it was postponed when chunks of SkyDome's roof fell to the ground in left field. Kansas City starter Jeff Suppan (2-3), winless in his previous three starts, allowed three runs on eight hits in 7 1-3 innings. He struck out six and walked two. Tony Cogan finished the eighth and Roberto Hernandez pitched the ninth to get his sixth save. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

FAMILY AFFAIR

Ginebra, SMB gun for PBA finals slots



RUDY Hatfield (with the ball) of Pop Cola slams against San Miguel Beer defender Dorlan Peña for an offensive foul during their PBA semifinal game Sunday. Poch Juinio of Pop Cola looks on. The Beermen won, 82-75.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Semis at a Glance

Ginebra-Shell

Game 1: Ginebra 90, Shell 78
Game 2: Ginebra 74, Shell 72
Game 3: Shell 113, Ginebra 87

Pop-SMB

Game 1: Pop Cola 73, SMB 64
Game 2: SMB 81, Pop Cola 66
Game 3: SMB 82, Pop Cola 75

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m. – Ginebra vs Shell (Gins leads series, 2-1)
7:30 p.m. – San Miguel vs Pop Cola (SMB leads series, 2-1)

A FAMILY affair.

That's what San Miguel Beer and Barangay Ginebra will aim for today when they go up against separate opponents in the All-Filipino Cup semifinals at Philsports.

Clutching similar 2-1 leads in their respective best-of-five semifinal series, SMB and Ginebra take on Pop Cola and Shell, respectively, hoping to score the win that would push them to a dream-come-true title playoffs.

The one and only time that both teams had clashed for a PBA crown came in 1989, with the Beermen prevailing to earn their first and only Grand Slam thus far.

But SMB coach Jong Uichico and Ginebra mentor Allan Caidic refused to get carried away by that wonderful thought.

"I don't want to think about that now," said Uichico. "We have to wrap up the semis first before planning for the finals."

Said Caidic: "I like our situation compared to that of Shell."

Shell came back strong in Game 3, routing Ginebra, 113-87.

So hot was Shell in that game that it hit 46-of-79 from the floor, including 12-of-17 from the three-point lane.

Shell's Rob Wainwright and Chris Jackson, both waxing hot from the three-point country, posted career-highs of 28 and 24 points, respectively.

"Playing at that level, they can beat any team they will face," said Caidic of Shell's performance in Game 3.

Already outshot from the floor, Ginebra was also out-rebounded (43-32) and out-assisted (26-16).

"I didn't have to explain anything to them," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo. "They know what to do. We've been in situations similar to this. And now that we have managed to get a new lease on life, we'll make the most out of it."

No team has ever come back from a 0-2 deficit to win a best-of-five series in a semifinal encounter.

The legendary Crispa Redmanizers and the Purefoods Hotdogs had each achieved 3-2 victories when a championship was still pegged at best-of-five after going down 0-2.

Cebu captures Lhuillier Cup

THE TWO-DAY Cebuana Lhuillier Friendship Cup basketball tournament held last weekend in Cebu City was supposed to be a friendly tournament.

But from the way host team Cebuana Lhuillier Gems and the Negros Slashers played Sunday night at the Cebu Coliseum, it seemed the MBA national championship had been at stake already

The Gems earned an 84-81 victory over the Slashers before a delirious hometown crowd and served strong notice of their intentions when the regular MBA season opens in June.

Batangas beat Andok's, 86-77, for third place.

Adjustments

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DID say something about adjustments, remember?

Shell listened. The result? Disaster for Ginebra San Miguel.

Shell's main adjustment in Game 3 was as clear as daylight: It rained Ginebra with triples.

Initially, Shell made some tests. Shoot from afar. With Rob Wainwright and Chris Jackson assigned to do the testing.

It clicked.

The duo obeyed their instincts to the hilt and that was the end for Ginebra. Their hands were as hot as the tempers of those who tried to storm the gates of Malacañang yesterday that it was a miracle the arena didn't go up in flames. Instead, the result was a wondrous 113-87 Shell victory.

While Shell was quick to make the adjustments, Ginebra wasn't. Worst, it played into the hands of Shell. Ginebra tried to match Shell's hot streak from the floor.

It backfired.

You don't meet a hothead head-on. Calm down. Change topic. Change style.

Now, it's different if you have superiority in all aspects—as in the case of the Palace Siege yesterday. GMA's forces had a distinct advantage over a mob armed merely with stones and so, GMA won with plenty to spare.

Suddenly, Ginebra is back to the drawing boards, so to speak.

While San Miguel Beer seemed ready to nail its destiny without much resistance from Pop Cola (at least it had appeared that way in Game 3), Ginebra looked like it had gone back to its old form: full of panic at the slightest sign of direct assault to its pride.

It would be a shame, indeed, if Ginebra loses the series to Shell in the end. Seizing a 2-0 lead is no mean feat. Ginebra had nicely done it—score two successive victories against a team that topped the eliminations.

But the way Ginebra lost Game 3, wow, never did I see even a single radiance of Ginebra's brilliance in Games 1 and 2. What happened in Game 3 was what Shell wanted to happen: Make Ginebra a non-team, make the Gin Kings non-Kings. In short, Shell's Perry Ronquillo had totally outcoached Allan Caidic.

Did I not also say that for the wayward train that was Ginebra to be stopped, Shell needed all of Ronquillo's 300-pound frame?

Ronquillo did not just stop Ginebra dead on its track, he also derailed the team that became the league's bullet train for four straight playing days. Remember those two successive Ginebra victories over Purefoods that shoved the Gins to an improbable semifinal stint?

It should be tonight or Ginebra is history in Game 5.

St. Benilde seeks 2nd win vs Adamson

REIGNING NCAA senior champion College of St. Benilde guns for its second straight victory when it plays Adamson University today in the seven-game Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament at the PCU gym on Taft Avenue.

The CSB cagers, who blasted Angelicum, 94-54, Saturday at the Rizal Memorial coliseum, are favored over the Falcons in the 5 p.m. match.

Six over games are on tap in the tourney sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines led by Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II and jointly sponsored by Agfa Photo Plus, Red Bull and SMART-Piltel.

Defending women's titlist Adamson tries to bounce back from its 47-54 setback at the hands of UP when it faces UST B in the 8 a.m. opener.

It will be Ateneo B against PCU at 9:30, San Beda B against PCCr at 11, UPHR against San Beda A at 12:30 p.m., Mapua against University of the East at 2 p.m. and UNO High against De La Salle Zobel at 3:30 in the other matches featuring junior teams.

Forty-five teams from the UAAP, NCAA and other collegiate leagues are vying in the country's biggest inter-school cagefest.

Coach Boy de Vera's Jose Rizal Bombers rocked Saturday's inaugurals by downing defending senior champion Ateneo, 92-89.

Tiong Lion titlist Xavier School loaned on Tyrone Tang's 34 points to hold off SBC B, 58-51, while Adamson downed Letran, 63-55, in junior matches.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL

NBA Playoffs First Round Milwaukee vs Orlando Game #4 at 8 a.m. (r- 7 p.m.)

MOTOR SPORTS: CART - Texas 600 at 11 a.m. (r) on ESPN

Max Power at 4:30 p.m. on Star Sports

2001 F1 World Championships - Spanish Grand Prix at 9:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic, Third Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

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2.0 HPWM	~~44,000~~	41,500	2,500
2.5 HPWM	~~48,500~~	46,000	2,500

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1.0 HPWM	~~₱32,750~~	₱30,000	2,750
1.5 HPWM	~~35,250~~	33,000	2,250
2.0 HPWM	~~44,000~~	41,500	2,500
2.5 HPWM	~~48,000~~	46,000	2,000
3.0 TRFM	~~63,500~~	59,000	4,500
3.0 TRCM	~~65,500~~	61,000	4,000

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BRAND / CAPACITY	REGULAR PACKAGE COST	SPECIAL PACKAGE COST*	SAVINGS
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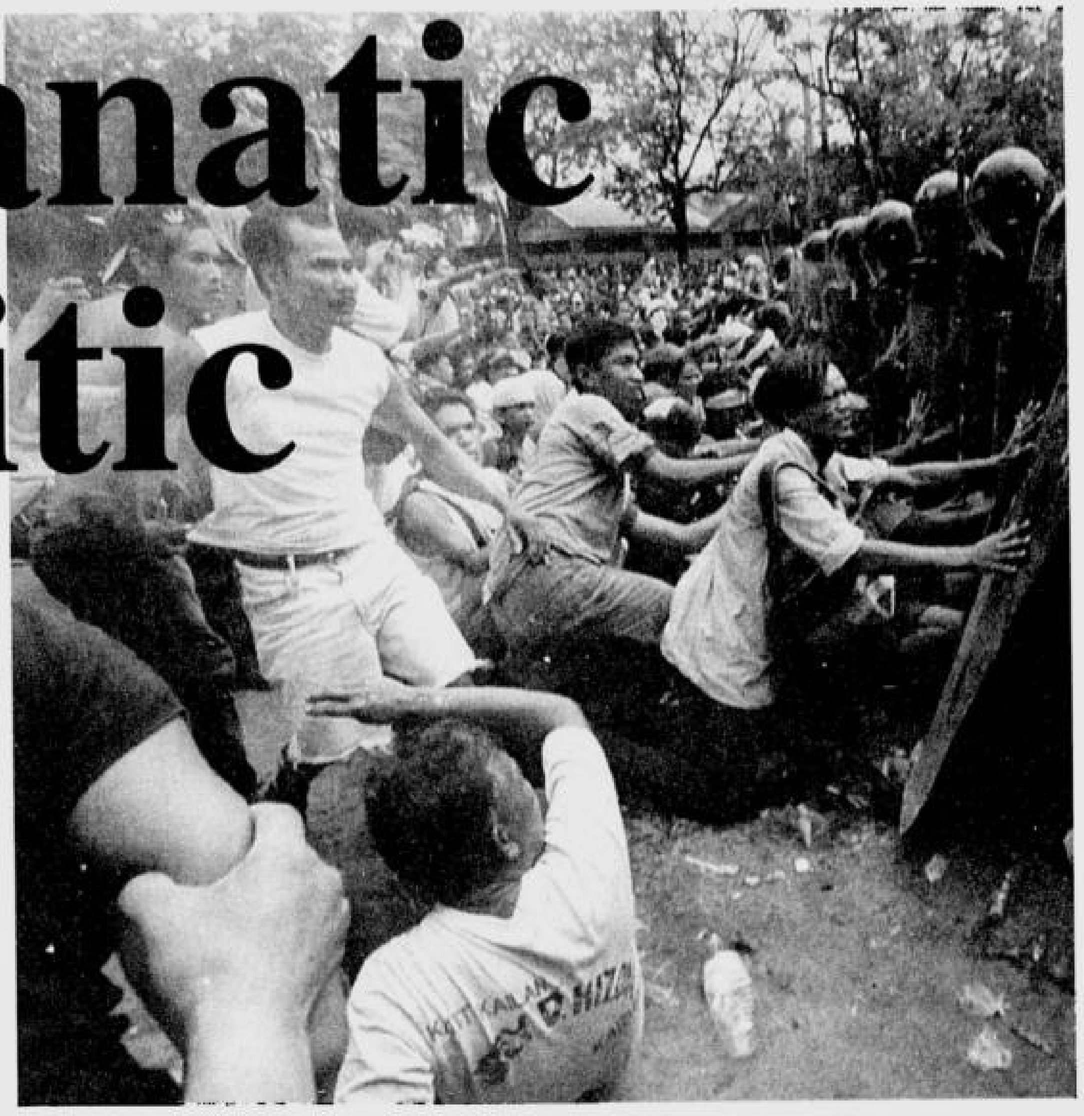
METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- Malacañang rallies banned A26
- Asistios brought in addicts–Malonzo A26

Erap fanatic kills critic



HELMETED government troops, trying maximum tolerance, stand like steel statues as fanatical Erap supporters sweat and swear to press their way toward Malacañang in yesterday's violent rally.

JESS YUSON

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A 27-YEAR-OLD gambler was stabbed dead Monday night in Las Piñas City after he told a sore supporter of deposed President Estrada that nothing would come out of the pro-Erap march to Malacañang.

SPO1 George Gabriel of the Las Piñas police identified the victim as Allan Dasensi, 27, of West Street, Golden Acres, Talon, Las Piñas City.

Police said Dasensi was playing bingo with suspect Arnaldo Gueraldo, 35, on Carnival Street, Golden Acres.

In the heat of their game, the players began discussing the latest political events and Dasensi asked Gueraldo, a known Estrada supporter, what was happening at the Edsa Shrine.

The suspect told Dasensi that Estrada supporters, who had been rallying at the Edsa Shrine, were set to march to Malacañang Palace to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In reply, Dasensi said nothing would happen even if the pro-Erap group would march to the Palace.

"*Wala ring mangyayari kung lulusob sila sa* Malacañang (Nothing would happen if they charge the Palace)," Dasensi allegedly said. ``*Pang-gulo lamang sila* (They would just be making trouble.)"

This angered Gueraldo, who pulled out a fan knife, stabbed Dasensi in the chest and fled with his winnings.

Dasensi was taken to the Perpetual Help Hospital but he died on the way. Police are looking for the suspect, a known Estrada fan. *With a report from Jojo Arazas*

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MALACAÑANG SIEGE

Asistios brought in addicts–Malonzo

By Christian V. Esguerra

CALOOCAN City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday asked the government to file sedition and rebellion charges against Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and his brother Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr. for their alleged role in the siege of Malacañang.

Malonzo also urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to include the Asistio brothers, close friends of indited former president Joseph Estrada, in the hold departure order issued by the government against suspected leaders of the pro-Estrada ralliers.

Baby Asistio was, however, quick to deny the allegations. He said Malonzo, a reelectionist in the coming May 14 elections, was only politicking.

Malonzo, however, maintained that the Asistios had bribed about 3,000 "hoodlums and criminals" in Caloocan to beef up the massive contingent of pro-Estrada ralliers at the Edsa Shrine.

He said that the Asistios' had paid their "hakot crowd" P500 each daily and provided them with transportation from Caloocan to the Edsa shrine on April 25 to 30.

Malonzo also blamed the horde allegedly gathered by the Asistios for the bloody confrontation between Estrada loyalists and police at the Mendiola Bridge yesterday.

He said they were also responsible for the violent clash on Ayala Avenue in Makati at the height of anti-Estrada protests early this year.

"They should even be asked to pay the damages their contingent have done to Edsa and Mendiola," Malonzo said.

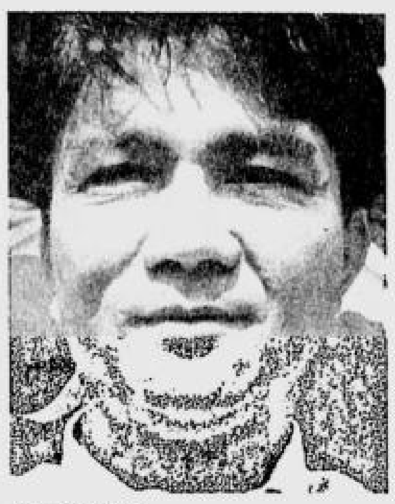
Baby Asistio dismissed Malonzo's accusations and described them as baseless.

"He's just desperate to win in the elections. He knows Caloocan doesn't want him anymore," Asistio said.

Malonzo described the crowd the Asistios allegedly gathered as mostly made up of drug addicts recruited from Bagong Silang and Dagat-Dagatan in Caloocan.

About 20,000 Estrada supporters stormed Malacañang early yesterday morning and demanded the resignation of Ms Arroyo. They were dispersed after a violent clash with anti-riot police at about 11:30 a.m.

Malonzo is running for his third and last term as Caloocan mayor against Baby Asistio. In 1998, Boy Asistio lost the mayoral race to Malonzo. He is now running for the lone Congressional seat in Caloocan.


MALONZO

BOY ASISTIO

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A police car burns in front of the Centro Escolar University at the height of dispersal operations against Erap loyalists. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Palace rallies now banned

ALL protest rallies in the vicinity of Malacañang are banned, Manila mayor Lito Atienza announced yesterday.

Atienza also warned that looters and vandals would be "suppressed, arrested and prosecuted without mercy."

Atienza made the announcement after inspecting the destruction brought about by a mob of pro-Estrada protesters who rampaged in front of the presidential palace early yesterday morning.

Atienza said he was appalled by the burning of a police car, three media vehicles, and DPWH equipment, along with the destruction of government and private properties along Mendiola and in the Nagtahan area.

"Enough is enough! We will apply the full force of the law to protect the lives and property of our constituents, and the general interest of the city," Atienza said.

"They have wiped out whatever gains they have achieved and lost the legitimacy of the cause of their actuations," Atienza added referring to pro-Estrada protesters who ran amuck in Mendiola.

Atienza commended the police and the military forces that drove the mob out of Malacañang area, saying they "exercised utmost restraint."

At the same time, he ordered the Western Police District (WPD), through its District Director Nicolas Pasinos, to deploy units to "thwart anarchists who may want to burn, loot, injure and maim in their insane desire to destroy the peace that reigns in Manila."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, May 2, 2001
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 8:1-8
Gospel:	Jn 6:35-40

Jesus said to the disciples, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes in me shall never be thirsty. Nevertheless, as I said, you refuse to believe, even when you have seen. Yet, all that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me, I shall not turn away. For I have come from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of the One who sent me.

And the will of him who sent me is that I lose nothing of what he has given me, but instead that I raise it up on the last day. This is the will of the Father, that whoever sees the Son and believes in him shall live with eternal life; and I will raise him up on the last day."

Commentary

Today we begin Jesus' Eucharistic discourse. Similar to the Wisdom of old, Jesus invites people to eat of his table, really of himself. If Jesus is God's gift to us, it is equally important for us to realize that we are also God's gift, though never worthy we might be, to Jesus, the Only Begotten One. The more we unfold ourselves to Jesus, personified Wisdom, the more we are transformed. The more we are transformed, the more we see things in his perspectives. The more we are able to do this, the more we are able to follow in his footsteps and be his disciples—life giving to others just as even now through our faith Jesus enlivens us.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Delay in disposition of the case—Sec. 10 of the Revised Rules on Summary Procedure provides for the period in the rendition of judgment. Applying this provision, respondent judge is therefore obligated to decide the case within 30 days from the date when the position papers of both parties were filed in court. When the complainant filed a motion, the respondent judge should have simply denied the motion on the basis of the applicable law and then immediately rule on the merits of the case so as not to defeat the purpose of the rules on summary procedure. There is no reason why it has to take the respondent judge a month to resolve a simple motion and more than 2 months to decide the case. The excuse preferred by the respondent judge is flimsy. A judge should diligently discharge administrative responsibilities, maintain professional competence in court management and facilitate the performance of the administrative functions of other judges and court personnel. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, Uy v. Medina, A.M. No. MTJ-00-1247, October 10, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Robbers kill cop in Quiapo shootout

By Jerome Aning

A WESTERN Police District police officer was shot dead by a group of suspected holdup men during an encounter in Quiapo Monday night.

PO3 Rolando Abello, 36, married and assigned at the WPD Station 3's community precinct at Plaza Miranda, died on the spot about 10:15 p.m.

The shooting took place at the corner of Quezon Boulevard and P. Paterno Street in Quiapo.

Police nabbed one suspect identified as Antonio dela Cruz, 30, and resident of 28 West Dahlia St., Fairview, Quezon City.

SPO1 Danildo Vidad of the WPD's homicide section said PO3 Abello and PO2 Guillermo Sartin were on board a motorcycle and patrolling their beat when they spotted four men hiding in a dimly lit portion of Quezon Boulevard.

This prompted the two cops to stop over and check, SPO1 Vidad said. But when PO3 Abello approached the group, the suspects responded by firing their guns.

Abello was hit at the back of his left ear.

The suspects also fired at PO2 Sartin but they missed. Sartin returned fire.. thereby sending the suspects scampering.

Thereafter, Station 3 policemen arrived and gave a chase that resulted in the arrest of De La Cruz.

Meanwhile, Supt. Danilo Abarsoza, Station 3 commander, said they had received information that a criminal gang was planning to rob the 7-Eleven convenience store on P. Paterno Street, and Abello and Sartin may have thought the suspects were the would-be-robbers. The victim was brought to the Tres Amigos Funeral Homes in Paco for autopsy.

De La Cruz is now under the custody of Police Station 3 for further investigation, while police are still looking for the three other suspects.

2 workers charged with multiple rape of epileptic, 13

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO workers from Malabon are facing multiple rape charges for allegedly abusing on several occasions a 13-year-old girl, said to be an epileptic, and paying her P10 each time.

Malabon police have arrested Rogelio Manacat, 45, of Dulong Bronze Street, Barangay Tugatog, Malabon. The Malabon City Prosecutor's Office recommended no bail for Manacat.

Police are now hunting down the other suspect, Tony Payawal, also a resident of Dulong Bronze Street.

The suspects allegedly raped the victim several times last month in their respective houses, according to the Malabon Police station investigation and intelligence branch.

Each time they would abuse the victim, the suspects reportedly gave her P10 so she would not report the incident to the police, said PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin.

The last incident happened on Saturday, when Payawal allegedly raped the victim the entire afternoon, police said.

The victim's aunt discovered what has been happening to her niece when she saw the girl near Payawal's house.

Malabon SIIB lawmen arrested Manacat inside his house on Sunday, but failed to capture Payawal.

Medical records showed the victim had indeed been raped.

With a report from Paul Ernest Lazaro

Payatas slay puzzles cops

A YOUNG man was shot dead while tending his eatery in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City before midnight yesterday.

Police were still determining the motive behind the killing.

Rizaldy Tiocson, 23, of 007 Mt. Apo St. Group 2 in Barangay Payatas B, Quezon City died from a gunshot wound in the head after unidentified suspects attacked him in front of his eatery, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Tiocson was with his cousin Jerome tending to his eatery at the corner of IBP Road and Litex when the suspects struck about 12:35 a.m., Fernandez said.

Tiocson and his cousin were sitting in front of the eatery when the suspects suddenly appeared and confronted them.

One of the suspects pulled out a .45 pistol and shot Tiocson from behind.

The suspects then fled on board a motorcycle while Tiocson was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival about 3:10 a.m.

Philip Tubeza

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Bagatsing, Fernandez, speak on Palace march

CANDIDATES for local positions have jumped into the picture by issuing statements on the violent march of Estrada supporters to the Malacañang Palace.

Manila mayoral candidate Amado Bagatsing called for "prayer" and an end to the "strife that has gripped our country."

At the same time, Bagatsing took potshots at his opponent,incumbent mayor Lito Atienza.

Bagatsing accused Atienza of "inciting" Estrada's followers "into trying to lay siege on the presidential palace."

"Atienza was rabble-rousing at the Edsa Shrine, believing it would help boost his candidacy. But he was nowhere in sight when the protesters were converging in Mendiola," Bagatsing said.

He also commended the police and military for "exercising maximum restraint in dispersing the Erap supporters."

Quezon City mayoral candidate actor Rudy Fernandez, a known supporter of Estrada, called for "sobriety" among the supporters of deposed president and the government "to avoid more violent dispersals of protesters and stop further bloodshed that could destabilize the situation."

At the same time, Fernandez urged leaders of the demonstrators "to disperse peacefully and stop provoking the police and military."

"The administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should also refrain from any crackdown against the demonstrators and their leaders, Fernandez said. "The government should instead initiate efforts for reconciliation to start a genuine and sincere healing process."

Cavite governor and candidate Ramon "Bong" Revilla, also sought to help his wounded provincemates whom he said were brought to Edsa Shrine by "politicians."

"I was disturbed by the sight of blood oozing from the wounded and the fallen, being aware that some Caviteños were brought to Edsa by politicians who left them in the midst of their suffering," said Revilla in a statement.

Alcuin Papa

MAKATI BETS

The clean team at Barangay Pio del Pilar led by Melon Recto-Silverio, Lakas NUCD-PPC congressional candidate for the first district of Makati, seat being vacated by Rep. Joker Arroyo, shown with Dean Barbers for vice mayor, (Edu Manzano for mayor not in picture) and Bong Daza (extreme left), Jay Santiago, lawyer Mike Lopez, Glenn Enciso, Chico Jochico and balladeer Nonoy Zuñiga, aspiring councilors bet for good government high quality education, health, housing for the poor, and elimination of graft and corruption in the premier city.

Binay: 'I did not seek postponement'

MAKATI mayoral bet Jejomar Binay yesterday clarified that it was the prosecution panel, and not his lawyers, who sought a postponement of an April 27 arraignment before the Sandiganbayan.

Binay said his presence at last week's hearing was not needed since he had earlier been arraigned where he entered a plea of not guilty. The April 27 arraignment was for his co-accused, he said.

At the same time, Binay welcomed the appeal of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to the local opposition asking them to submit evidence to support their allegations against him and his wife, incumbent Makati Mayor Elenita Binay.

"It's about time for the opposition to put up or shut up," Binay said.

"If they really have the evidence, then they should heed the call of Ombudsman Desierto and submit their evidence. I look forward to refuting these allegations in a proper court of law," he said.

He added: "These wild accusations contained in newspaper and magazine articles, which will obviously make up their main body of evidence, will not stand the scrutiny of the courts."

Voter's Voice Eleksyon 2001

Heroic heavyweights

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT'S a game where there are no winners.

The street war between Erap Estrada fanatics and government troops is a mindless match that leaves only one sure loser: the Filipino and his badly battered country.

Nothing could be more frustrating than to sit before the TV set to watch the Filipino people being divided.

The whole day yesterday had been terribly tiring.

So kindly allow us this break to give way to this colorful thesis on boxing, courtesy of Mr. TEDDY M. REYNOSO of Bulacan, Bulacan:

* * *

Ordinary. That's what has become of the heavyweight division with the humiliating KO defeat of Lennox Lewis by an unheralded challenger who unmasked the big Briton.

With a hombre named John Ruiz (a 2nd round KO loser to David Tua) holding the WBA crown, and an aging and beatable Mike Tyson left as the only viable heavyweights of note around, the division is indeed in a rut.

It doesn't help that US promoters kept on ignoring the Klitschko Brothers of Russia, both huge and potentially outstanding heavies, who are now content on campaigning mainly in Europe.

It doesn't help that new champ Hassim Rahman obviously doesn't have what it takes to carry on for long with the torch he snatched from Lennox Lewis.

It also doesn't help any that Lewis may eventually regain the titles at the expense of either Rahman or Tyson. All three are, at best, damaged commodities.

* * *

It's clear as daylight. There is no one in the present heavyweight horizon who has the potential to join Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis and Rocky Marciano in the pantheon of all-time heavyweight greats.

Evander Holyfield would have made the grade. That's if he had quit the game after polishing off Mike Tyson (twice) and Michael Moorer.

Unfortunately, Holyfield opted to extend his stay and suffered embarrassing losses, thereby mortally hurting his chance to join the elite list of heavyweight greats.

But really, what had set Ali, Marciano, Louis, even Larry Holmes and Joe Frazier, apart from the rest of outstanding heavyweights of modern times?

Two things: a humongous personal sense of pride and devotion to boxing to the extent that they regard the sport, not only as a profession, but as an art form.

Because of their deep sense of pride, they abhorred losing.

Marciano was never beaten inside the boxing arena.

Louis suffered his only defeats after a record reign as world heavyweight king, when he was already bald and fading. And he suffered them against a young and cagey Ezzard Charles and the incomparable Rocky Marciano, both all-time greats.

Ali, after a long reign, lost his last pro fights to Larry Holmes and Trevor Berbick. By then, Ali was already pushing forty, tired and flabby; while his "conquerors" were both at their peak.

Frazier lost convincingly to George Foreman, another candidate for the Elite All-time Heavyweight Club.

Frazier had distinguished himself glowingly against Ali—Foreman's tormentor—in fights that fans to this day love to hark back to. Frazier's super-ego also has him refusing to admit defeat to Ali to this day.

As for Holmes, he tasted his first defeat at the hands of young and cocky Michael Spinks when he was already pushing forty, at the twilight of an illustrious career.

* * *

A tremendous sense of personal pride they truly possessed. A deep love and devotion for boxing as a profession and a medium of self-expression also set these fighters, especially Ali, over and above the other great heavies of modern times.

Notable champs like Sonny Liston, Foreman, Tyson, even Riddick Bowe and Lennox Lewis set out to demolish their opponents with the attitude of a professional killer.

But for Ali, Louis, Marciano, Frazier and Holmes, even Holyfield earlier in his career, it's not only about the job, the money or the championship belt. It's about them expressing themselves and their art through boxing.

Ali shuffling in the ring to mesmerize both his opponents and the fans, before moving in to deliver the coup, had been described as poetry in motion.

Louis, Marciano and Frazier had painted the canvas with their own blood and that of their luckless knockout victims in dramatic wins that approximated art.

Louis, ever calculating, Marciano, ever menacing, Frazier ever "smoking." All of them with the cool of true pros and the deliberateness of an artist.

Ah, when will we ever see the likes of these all-time great heavyweights again?

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3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
10	ULTRA SURROUND	CHERRY FALLS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
4	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	THE MEXICAN

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 4

1	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	EXIT WOUNDS THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	FINDING FORRESTER	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MEXICAN	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SUGAR AND SPICE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	SAY IT ISN'T SO	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	EXIT WOUNDS	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SUGAR AND SPICE	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	EXIT WOUNDS THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MEXICAN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SUGAR AND SPICE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2 (SDDS)	RECESS
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
8 (PRML)	CROUCHING TIGER
9 (PRML)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 (PRML)	HALIK NG SIRENA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXTREME WARRIOR
3 (DTS)	
4	INIT NG DUGO
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE MEXICAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	HALIK NG SERENA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	EXTREME WARRIOR
2	HALIK NG SERNA
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	THE MEXICAN
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INIT NG DUGO
8	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	EXIT WOUNDS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ABAKADA...INA
2	WOMAN ON TOP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
A	EXIT WOUNDS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	HALIK NG SERENA
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8 (SDDS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
9 (DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	EXTREME WARRIOR
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8	MADERASO
9	ATTACK FORCE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	EXTREME WARRIOR
7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
8	RECESS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
2	THE MEXICAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HALIK NG SERENA
Lords	WAG PO WAG PO
Jennet	HALIK NG SERENA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	THE MEXICAN
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	THE MEXICAN
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	XTREME WARRIOR

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO
4	EXTREME WARRIOR
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	INIT SA DUGO

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2135 / 534.2198

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	HALIK NG SERENA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	THE MEXICAN
4 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	THE MEXICAN
5	SWEET NOVEMBER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THEY NEST
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALIW MA SARAP ANG BAWAL
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXTREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	TAONG X

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	THE MEXICAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	ANTI-TRUST
4 (DTS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

PLANET 9 BALL
BILLIARDS-BAR FAMILY KTV

Robinson's Place
2nd Level (Pedro Gil Gate)
Ermita, Manila

FOR RESERVATIONS PLS. CALL 5258292

Mutya 2001 holds regional screenings

MUTYA ng Pilipinas 2001 will hold regional screenings in Cebu, Pampanga and Davao this summer in the hope of discovering the charm and wit of exceptional Filipinas nationwide.

Provincial candidates will be called to a live audition where they will get a taste of the pageant's rigorous battery of interviews.

Screenings will be held May 2, 3 and 16. Candidates who pass the auditions will participate in Mutya ng Pilipinas regional pageants to be held May 5 in Davao, May 11 in Pampanga and May 12 in Cebu.

Past Mutya winners are Peachy Veneracion, Bong Dimayacyac, Ines Zaragoza, Lorna Legaspi, Mutya Crisostomo Laxa, Gemith Gemparo, Michelle Aldana and Maricel Morales.

This year's Mutya ng Pilipinas which is shaping up to be an exciting beauty competition, is a joint production of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest Inc. (MAPQI) and GMA 7.

Preparations are now underway for the coronation night, the fast-paced, creative and upbeat production values of which will have the look and feel of the new generation.

The pageant's other activities will also have a refreshing twist, with other candidates going on regional campus caravans, guesting on music channels and doing outdoor fashion shows.

For more information, call 892-2057 or 892-2079, e-mail mutya-@gmanetwork.com or log on to www.mutyangpilipinas.com.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

e-mail:htc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieword.com

NOW SHOWING

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. EXIT WOUNDS
2. THE MEXICAN
3. SAY IT ISN'T SO
4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. HALIK NG SIRENA
6. SUGAR AND SPICE
7. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

GALLERIA

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JUNE 2001
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equipped with THX, DOLBY, DTS, SDDS

IMUS (046)875-3836

1. EXIT WOUNDS
2. SUGAR AND SPICE
3. HALIK NG SIRENA
4. SAY IT ISN'T SO
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE NEST
2. DOUBLE TAKE
3. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4. THE MEXICAN
5. THE GIFT
6. ABAKADA...INA

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	HALIK NG SIRENA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE MEXICAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	EXTREME WARRIORS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	EXTREME WARRIORS
ROBEN	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
TANDEM-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	VERTICAL LIMIT / WHERE IS MY CAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	HALIK NG SIRENA
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
REMAR-2	EXIT WOUNDS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-2	GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-2	ABAKADA...INA
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WOMAN ON TOP
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-12	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-14	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS CONGENIALITY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-2	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-3	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

Special . . .

(From page A29)

and "The Wizard of Paws"—released locally by Viva Video.

The videos were launched at 4 p.m. on May 1 at the Glorietta Activity Center. Hello Kitty's videos are available on VHS and VCD formats at all video City outlets.

'Ben-Hur' on DVD

MGM's "Ben-Hur," the Oscars' most-awarded film, is now on digital videodisc (DVD) format. This has resulted in enhanced resolution of its images.

It also has a new Dolby Digital re-mix, plus a new commentary by its star, **Charlton Heston** and a documentary on the making of the movie, and even recently-discovered screen tests!

Heston plays Ben-Hur, a Jewish nobleman in biblical-era Palestine who is enslaved by the Romans. Later, he wins his freedom by saving his master in a fierce sea battle, and exacts vengeance on his tormentors during a furious chariot race.

LOUIE'S CINEMA

THX It Will Change the Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

NOW SHOWING

EXIT WOUNDS

(R-18 RT-1:40)
Action-Adventure-Drama
Starring:
Steven Seagal
DMX
Isaiah Washington

May 2 - Wednesday
6:20 PM - Exit Wounds
8:30 PM - Exit Wounds
10:40 PM - Exit Wounds

May 3 - Thursday
6:20 PM - Exit Wounds
8:30 PM - Closed
10:40 PM - Exit Wounds

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

‘Special Assigment’ goes the extra mile

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

UNLIKE some other news, public affairs and documentary shows, ABC-5’s “Arlyn de la Cruz on Special Assignment” works fast and light, with only 30 minutes’ running time and a radically pared-down production staff.

This is because veteran broadcast journalist **Arlyn de la Cruz** prides herself on being pretty much a one-person team, writing, reporting, producing and even shooting her own stories.

There are other people involved in the show, of course, but De la Cruz’s myriad skills make her point of view the program’s main thrust.

Viewing the show two Mondays ago (at 10:30 p.m.), we saw that the production bore the stamp of De la Cruz’s temperament and judgement from beginning to end.

It started with a long, many-pronged report on the latest developments in the **Bubby Dacer** case. This segment impressed with its on-camera coverage of five or so different events related to the case.

This indicated that the show was on the ball, and with its compact production team, it was able to go from event to event with efficiency and dispatch.

This many-aspected view of the various ramifications of the case gave viewers a good idea of its complex nature, better than some of the much longer reports we’ve seen on the subject in other shows.

The rest of the program delivered briefer reports on other topics, like the Erap loyalists’ efforts to “protect” the ex-president from putative arresting officers, an unauthorized dumpsite in Imus, Cavite, and political dynasties like the Gordons in Olongapo.

These shorter features were similarly brisk, informative and perceptive. At the end of the show, we felt that we got more from the 30-minute program than from some similar shows that drag on for 90 minutes.

On the debit side, the show’s briskness and effort to catch news events on the wing, as it were, sometimes results in poor sound and fuzzy images. Also, its effort to be brisk occasionally causes it to be hectic and flashy in its camerawork and editing, to a distracting and overly showy degree.

On the whole, however, “Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment” is a heartening viewing experience, because it shows that there are some TV people who will go the extra mile and not just fall back on the usual rote reportage, to make news events exciting *and* meaningful to viewers.

New season

THE NEW season of the absorbing show, “The West Wing” started on Studio 23 last Friday at 8:30 p.m. This is good news for local fans of the “presidential drama” (including this writer), which has set a high standard for entertaining *and* substantial work on TV.

Since its attention-grabbing premiere in 1999, “The West Wing” has regaled viewers with its insider’s views of the goings-on at the US president’s Oval office.

The show has won a lot of awards, including an unprecedented nine Emmys on its first season. Honors from the Golden Globe Awards and the Directors’ Guild of America have also been given to the show, which stars **Martin Sheen, Rob Lowe** and **Stockard Channing**.

Hello Kitty, video star

SANRIO’s Hello Kitty can now be seen in her very own video films—“Kitty and the Beast”

SPECIAL/A28

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

THRILLFEST @ Art Film

features

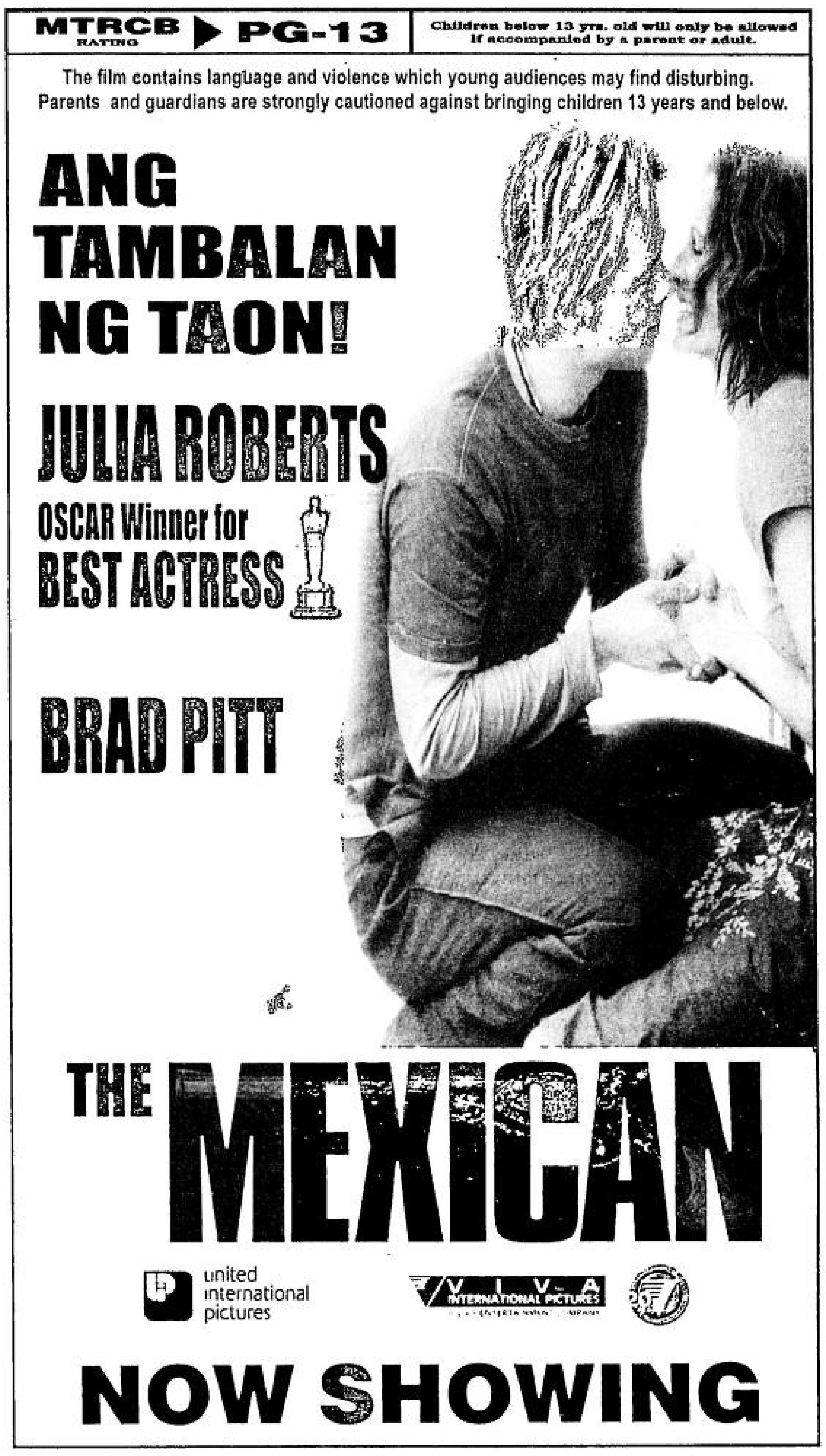
ANATOMY

THEY CAN'T WAIT TO GET THEIR HANDS ON YOU!

From German comes this deft mixture of European sensibilities and the modern horror film. For an ambitious medical student like Paula (FRANKA POTENTE), being chosen to take part in a prestigious anatomy course taught by a legendary professor is a dream come true. But Paula's delight quickly turns to sheer horror, when she finds a young man she met only days before lying in front of her on the dissecting table. Despite all warnings, Paula investigates his mysterious death... even if it means putting her own life in danger.

WINNER

Audience Award @ the German Film Awards 2000



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

The film contains language and violence which young audiences may find disturbing. Parents and guardians are strongly cautioned against bringing children 13 years and below.

ANG TAMBALAN NG TAON!

JULIA ROBERTS

OSCAR Winner for BEST ACTRESS

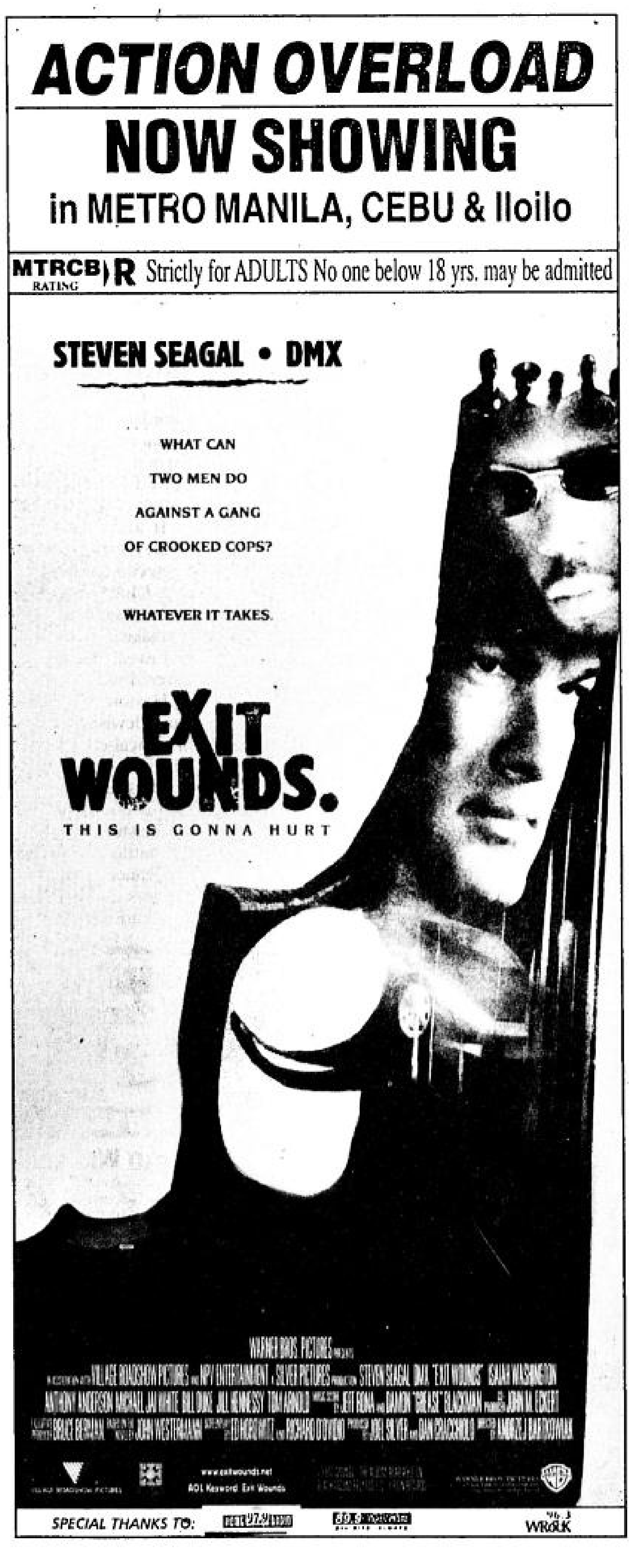
BRAD PITT

THE MEXICAN

united international pictures

VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

NOW SHOWING



ACTION OVERLOAD

NOW SHOWING

in METRO MANILA, CEBU & Iloilo

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STEVEN SEAGAL • DMX

WHAT CAN TWO MEN DO AGAINST A GANG OF CROOKED COPS?

WHATEVER IT TAKES.

EXIT WOUNDS.

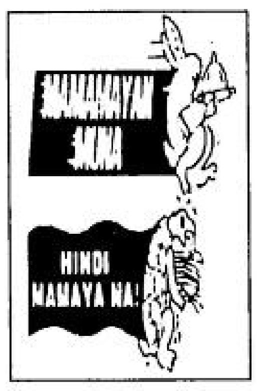
THIS IS GONNA HURT

WARNER BROS. PICTURES presents

www.exitwounds.net

AOL Keyword: Exit Wounds

SPECIAL THANKS TO: WRocK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Written & Directed By JOVEN MUNAR TAN

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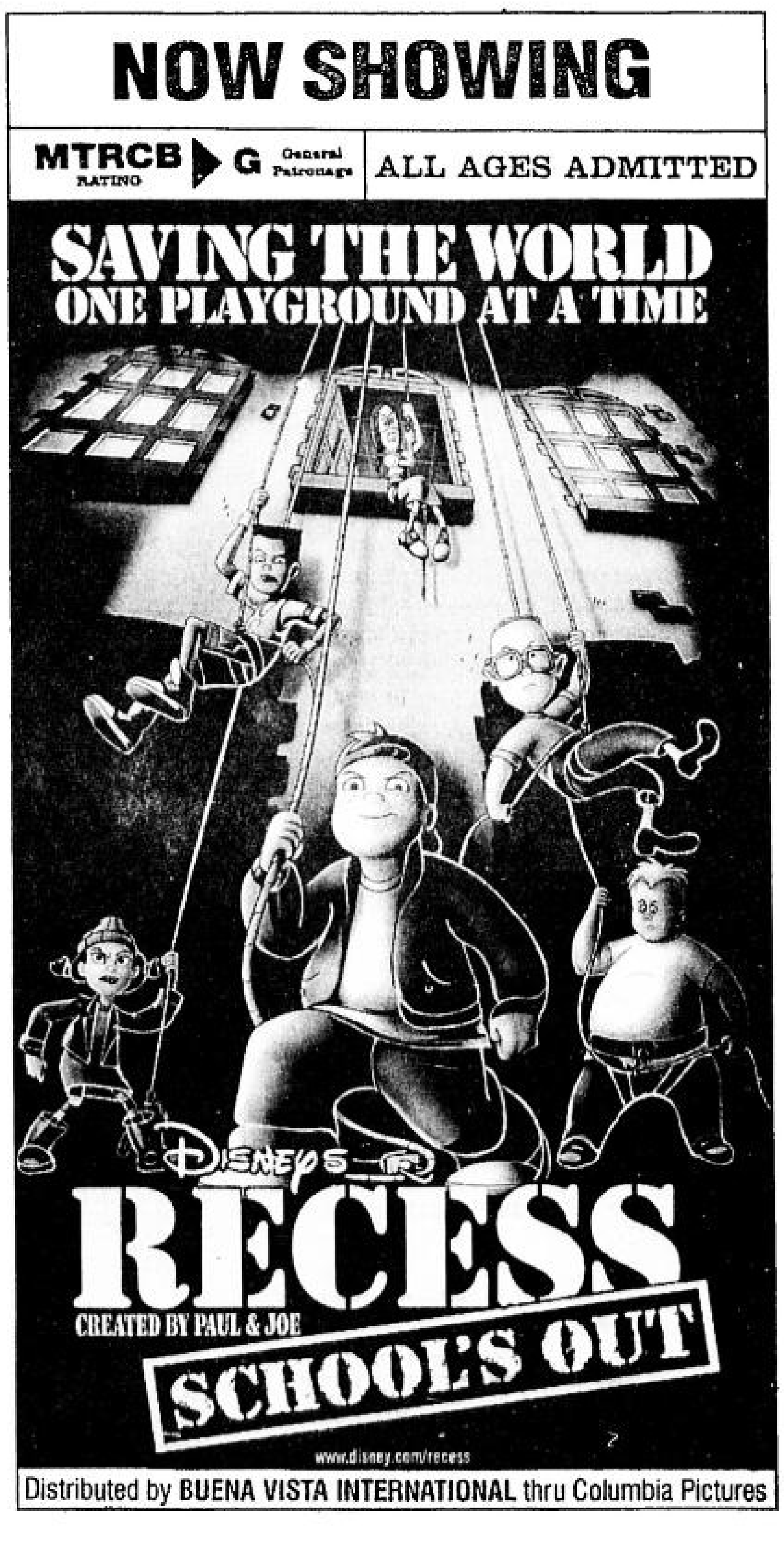
DOUBLE TAKE - P 13 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	EXIT WOUNDS - P 13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT - G 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00



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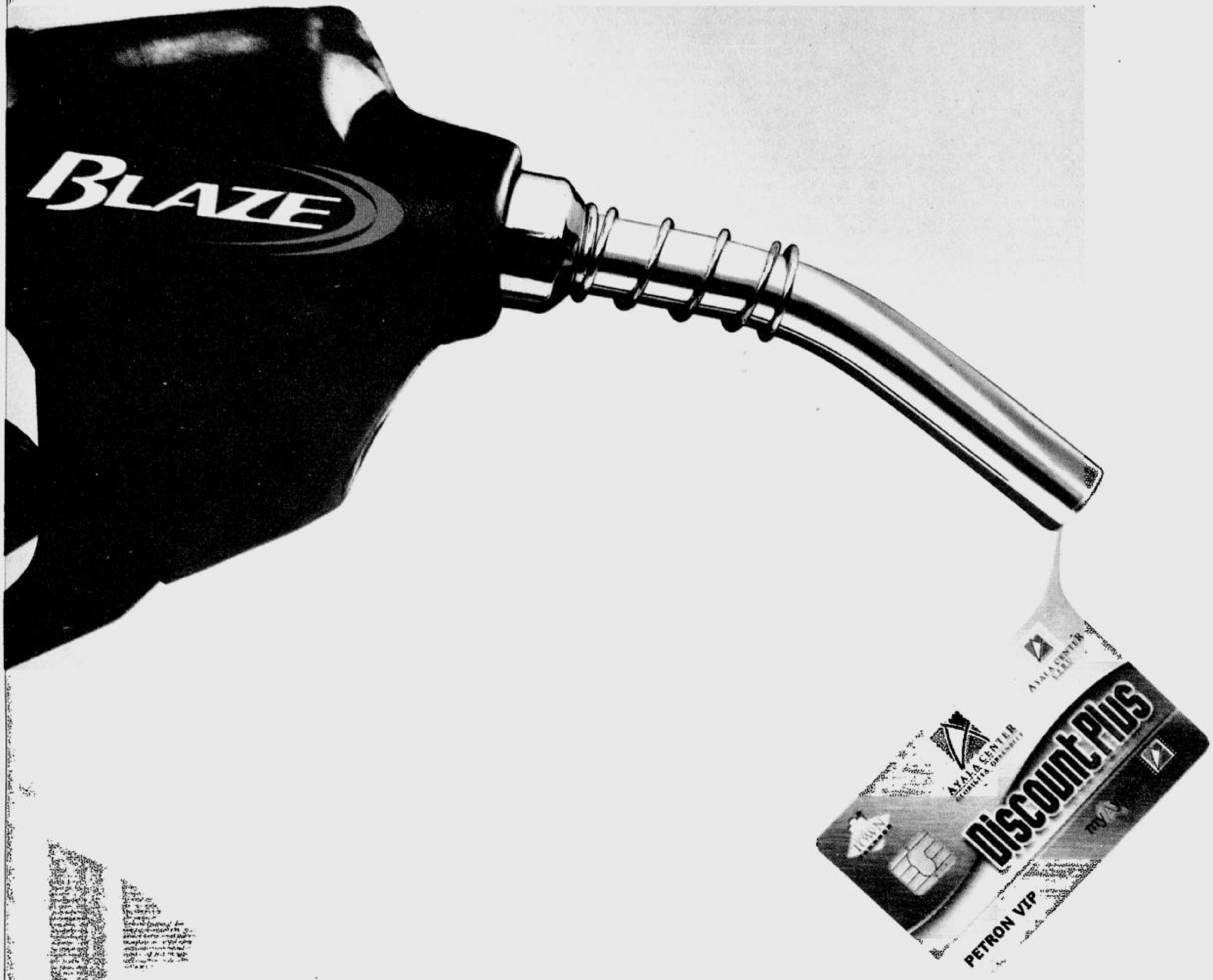

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

ENGINE OIL
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HONDA

Crisis defers gov't plan to borrow $150M

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE UNRESOLVED political crisis has prompted the Macapagal administration to postpone indefinitely a plan to raise $150 million from the foreign debt market this month.

An INQUIRER source said the national government was scheduled to either issue $150 million worth of bonds or borrow from a syndicate of banks in late May to help finance its gaping budget deficit.

However, prevailing uncertainties on the domestic front would have made any foreign borrowing for the Philippine government more expensive.

The country is expected to borrow a total of P180 billion this year, of which 40 percent would be raised from foreign sources and the rest from the local market.

Favorable rates obtained by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for two successive borrowings in March and in April prompted the national government to start tapping the foreign market for funds this early. It had originally planned to raise a $500-million loan in the second half of the year.

The BSP was able to borrow in early March $740 million with a spread of 3.1 percentage points over the London interbank offered rate (Libor). A month later, it raised another $200 million with a lower spread of 2.9 percentage points over Libor.

The loan offers of investment banks, according to another source, were only slightly above the rates given to BSP. But after recent developments on the political front, the supposedly favorable rates could no longer apply.

The government's borrowing plan this month was also soured by news of an impending debt moratorium by Argentina, an emerging market like the Philippines.

The problems in Argentina would have unduly raised the premium on borrowings of any emerging market like the Philippines. But the source said domestic problems caused more damage.

"Because of Argentina and what's happening here, we have to strategically postpone the borrowings," the government source said.

He pointed out that even local borrowings of the government were already being penalized by the market for unresolved political uncertainties sparked by the arrest of former President Estrada on plunder charges.

Last Monday, the government's benchmark borrowing rate rose by a quarter point to 10.102 percent while spreads on longer term treasury papers rose by 0.365 percentage point to 11.324 percent for the six-month and by 0.357 point to 11.725 percent for the one-year tenor.

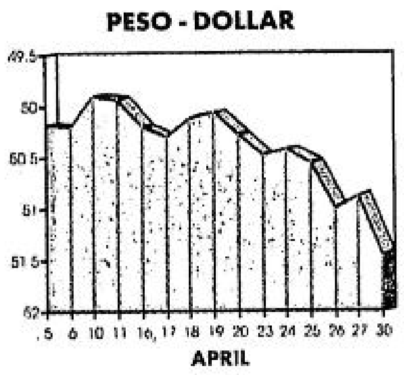
National Treasurer Sergio Edeza admitted that the markets were edgy because of recent political developments.

"Political developments are not helping the market and the first reaction of traders is to move interest rates higher. But I think this is very temporary," Edeza said.

The government auctions P4 billion worth of treasury bills every Monday.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.45 = $1

As of 5 p.m., April 30, 2001

¥ 122.96 = $1

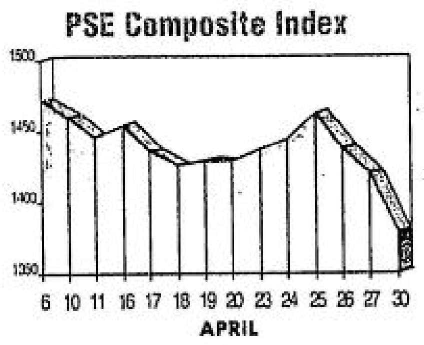
The US dollar was trading at 122.96 as of 5 p.m., May1, 2001

GOLD:$264.50/265.00

per ounce Hong Kong, April 27, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Heavy selling seen



(See stock market report on Page B2)

HEAVY selling is expected when the stock market opens today after the violent protests of Estrada supporters spooked investors.

Local stocks are expected to succumb to selling pressure that will flush out whatever little is left of foreign funds following the attack on Malacañang by an unruly mob of Erap supporters at dawn yesterday and the subsequent declaration of a "state of rebellion" by President Macapagal.

Securities 2000 research head Erwin Tan said the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, which closed at 1,378.84 on Monday, might target the 1,240 to 1,250 support levels that were last hit in October last year at the height of the "juetengate" scandal.

"There's still a lot of uncertainties going on even if the (pro-Estrada) rally has been dispersed. A lot of legal issues are coming out, including the declaration of the state of rebellion," Tan said.

As of press time yesterday, military troops have successfully dispersed the pro-Estrada rallyists near Malacañang and People Power II movers have already reclaimed control of the historic Edsa Shrine in Ortigas. The government is also preparing legal action against the suspected leaders of the attack, including several senatorial candidates from the opposition.

SPECIAL MEET TODAY

Equitable revamp seen

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE GOVERNMENT, through the Social Security System, will attempt to wrest control of Equitable PCIBank from the Go family in a special board meeting of the bank today, INQUIRER sources said yesterday.

SSS and at least one member of the Go family, with the support of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, plan to push for the appointment of former Solidbank president Deogracias Vistan as president and chief executive officer of Equitable, the country's third biggest lender.

Another source said Vistan resigned as director and vice chair of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. Monday, but the banker could not be reached for confirmation as of press time.

The Go family owns the biggest single shareholder block in Equitable PCIBank with a 30-percent stake followed by SSS, which has 25 percent.

Today's special board meeting was called to discuss only one topic: who would continue to manage the bank following the retirement two weeks ago of erstwhile Equitable president Wilfrido Vergara, a source said.

If the SSS-led group were successful, there would be a series of resignations in the bank starting immediately with Equitable acting president and CEO Edilberto Javier, executive vice presidents Romuald Dy Tang and Oscar Lopez-Dee, the source disclosed.

Earlier, sources said the Go family was divided on who should lead management of the bank. Equitable chair Antonio Go, together with Equitable Card Network Inc. consultant Anthony Conway, is set to support the SSS bid to install Vistan, while the other Go family members want Javier to become permanent president of the bank.

EQUITABLE/ B7

Gov't convinces Toyota to stay

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

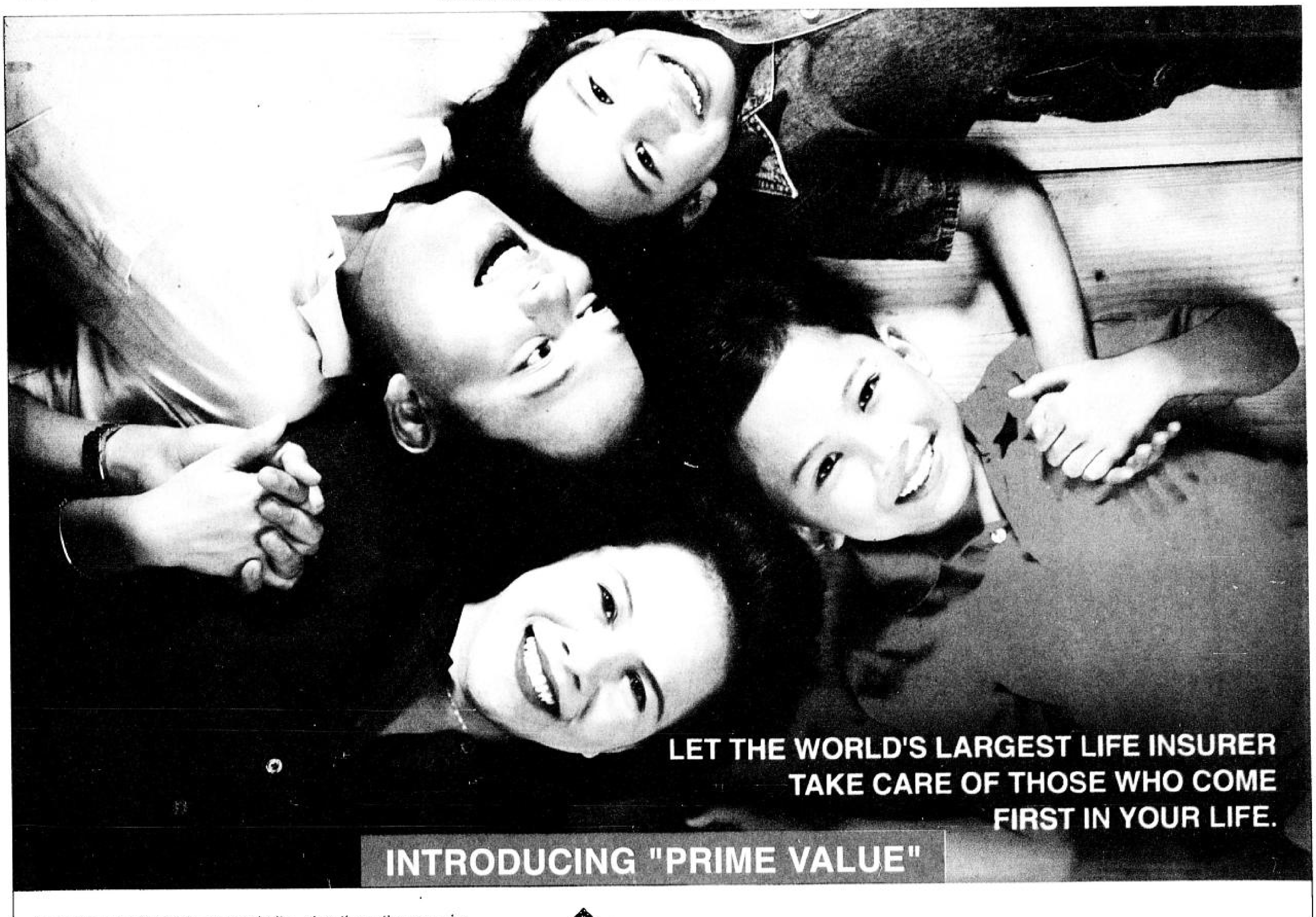
THE MACAPAGAL administration has apparently convinced Japan carmaker giant Toyota to maintain its assembly facility in the country after it vowed to strictly enforce the country's labor laws on errant workers.

Government officials led by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II met with visiting officials from Toyota's Japan headquarters to soothe their nerves following the labor strikes at its Sta. Rosa and Bicutan plants.

Roxas apparently assured the Japanese carmaker to stay put and the government would ensure that no wildcat strikes would hamper the company's operations in the future.

Toyota had earlier threatened to pull out of the Philippines if it does not get a fair share from the government. Toyota wants the government to go by the books and render a fair decision on the ongoing strike at its factory, noting that it

GOV'T/ B2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RFM eyes sale of assets, loan to meet bond payment

By Elena R. Torrijos

RFM Corp., the holding company of the Concepcion family, is gearing up to complete its plans for meeting the put-payment on its convertible bonds due this May 30.

In a statement, RFM chief finance officer Al G. Roy said the plans to meet the obligation will include a combination of funds from internally generated cash flow and cash reserves, new loans, and sale of non-core assets in line with RFM's thrust to focus on its core refreshments business.

RFM was said to be in negotiations to sell its chicken unit, Swift Foods Inc., to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. in order to raise the cash for the convertible bond payment.

Roy pointed out that the face value of the bond was down to almost half of what was originally issued at $65 million in 1996, as a result of previous purchases of the bonds.

However, Roy said the completion of the plan depends on some of the components being finalized within the month. He said details of the plan would be properly disclosed in due time.

Bondholders would likely "call in" the bonds rather than convert them into RFM shares because the food and beverage conglomerate's current share price is lower than the strike price set five years ago when the bonds were issued, a banker said.

The convertible bonds are actually supposed to mature in year 2006 but their "put-date" or when bondholders can either ask for payment or convert them into RFM shares will be on May 30.

RFM has $34 million in outstanding bonds that feature a coupon rate of 2.75 percent a year.

RFM earlier reported its unaudited financial statements showing an increase in net income, coming from strong cash flows from its key divisions and subsidiaries such as Cosmos Bottling Corp., RFM's beverage subsidiary, and Swift Foods.

Cosmos Bottling reported a P1.5-billion cash flow in 2000 while Swift posted cash flow of P500 million.

RFM's other businesses, like the flour and meat groups, likewise recorded positive cash earnings last year.

GSIS to halve investments in high-risk stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-CONTROLLED pension fund Government Service and Insurance System has pledged to halve its exposure in high-risk equity investments to 15 percent of its total portfolio.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, GSIS president Winston Garcia said the portfolio realignment was part of an overall strategy to rationalize the fund's investment war chest, worth more than P100 billion, and correct the "adventurism" allowed by his predecessor during the Estrada regime.

Garcia disclosed that the fund's investments in equities surged by 35 percent during the two years when Estrada was in power. He noted that this translated to a 5-percent reduction in the institution's actuarial reserve patch, equivalent to about P9 billion.

During Estrada's term, the funds of GSIS and SSS were believed to have been widely used to artificially support the stock market and in some cases to influence merger and acquisition activities among listed firms.

Estrada was also accused of using the funds of the pension funds to trade shares for his personal benefit.

"Investments of pension funds should not be a political decision . . . I don't think we'd have lost a lot if they only followed a strict investment criteria," Garcia said.

At the same time, he said the fund's investments in fixed-income instruments would be increased to 40 percent from the current 15 percent of its portfolio.

He said the fund's 40-percent exposure in salary loans would be maintained as these were the tried and tested income earners for the fund, generating a 15-percent rate each year and a 95-percent collection efficiency ratio.

The remaining 5 percent in Garcia's target portfolio would be devoted to the fund's housing program for members.

"Right now I want to simplify our investment and devote more funds to safer, long-term investments. The reason for this is I want to segregate a large portion of the funds from the prying hands of politicians," Garcia said.

Garcia has likewise vowed to stop multibillion-peso lending activities to corporations which were not even contributors to its funds.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of EEI CORPORATION will be held on **May 08, 2001**, at 10:00 a.m. at Club Filipino, McKinley corner Eisenhower Streets, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. Certification of Sending of Notices and Quorum.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Stockholders' Meeting held on February 01, 2001.
3. Chairman and CEO's Report/Review of Operations.
   a. 2000 Highlights
   b. Outlook for 2001
4. Approval of the Annual Report and Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors/Officers.
5. Election of Directors.
6. Transaction of other business which may come before the meeting.
7. Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **March 31, 2001** as the record date for purposes of determining the Company's stockholders entitled to notice of and vote at the said meeting.

Stockholders who cannot attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, should accomplish the proxy form which have been mailed to them together with the Agenda and Proxy Statement, and return the same to us not later than 24 hours before the meeting.

FERDINAND G. VILLAFUERTE
Senior Vice President & Corporate Secretary

CURRENCIES

April 30, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.122334	1.000000	51.2180
Japan	Yen	0.009053	0.008066	0.4131
United Kingdom	Pound	1.609989	1.434500	73.4722
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143915	0.128228	6.5676
Switzerland	Franc	0.649951	0.579106	29.6607
Canada	Dollar	0.727560	0.648256	33.2024
Singapore	Dollar	0.617176	0.549904	28.1650
Australia	Dollar	0.572386	0.509996	26.1210
Bahrain	Dinar	2.977173	2.652661	135.8640
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.299282	0.266660	13.6578
Brunei	Dollar	0.615721	0.548607	28.0986
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000095	0.000085	0.0044
Thailand	Baht	0.024569	0.021891	1.1212
UAE	Dirham	0.305605	0.272294	13.9464
Korea	Won	0.000847	0.000755	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.891000	45.6352
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.455561	23.3329
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135832	6.9570
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.404318	20.7084
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.064751	3.3164
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022087	1.1313
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000460	0.0236
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.149855	7.6753
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004444	0.2276
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005355	0.2743
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022087	1.1313
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.131337	57.9448

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, April 30, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	15,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	73.5	75.5	73.5	75.5	176,100
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	90
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	16	16	16	16	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41.5	21,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	213	208	211	89,080
Philippine National Bank	43	43	43	43	18,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1265	1265	1265	1265	4,680
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	965	950	960	13,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	35	36.5	35 36 22,900		
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.4	1,850,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	680	650	680	1,160
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	690	675	690	55,410
Ivantage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	200,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.037	0.038	145,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	40	40.5	40	40.5	16,900
Manila Electric Co. B	54.5	54.5	53	53	730,900
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.56	1.58	4,341,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.2	1.2	1.12	1.14	7,006,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	110,000
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	1,010,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	179,600
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	29	29.5	27.5	29	506,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
RFM Corp.	0.97	0.99	0.97	0.98	4,200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	44.5	44.5	43	43	93,200
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	50	48.5	48.5	329,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.1	4,637,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.2	1.2	1.06	1.08	11,181,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	11.5	11.75	6,700
A. Soriano Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
APC Group Inc. A .	1700 .17	.	16 .	16	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	8,102,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	450,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,050,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94	150,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22.25	22.5	21.75	22	797,300
Global Equities Inc	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	2,340,000
Ionics Inc	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	98,000
Macroasia Corp	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Megaworld Corp	0.75	0.75	0.7	0.72	3,620,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.44	0.44	13,560,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4	4	4	4	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	1,080,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	920,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	580,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	1,000
Music Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	304,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.64	0.64	120,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt.Corp.	20	20	20	20	16,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	660,000
SPI Technologies Inc	13	13.5	12.75	13.5	123,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	3,880,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.46	0.47	13,440,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37.5	37.5	35	36	1,617,200
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	680	680	680	1,800
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	12.75	12.75	38,400
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	22,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	31,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	4,447,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	820,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	5,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.02	2.02	1.88	1.88	8,073,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.12	0.12	330,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6.8	7	6.7	6.9	6,474,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.085	0.09	7,100,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	5,540,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	5,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,240,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Omico Corporation	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	25,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	310,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	4,300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.021	0.016	0.021	1,100,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004	33,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004	15,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	7,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000

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ABOITIZ
EQUITY VENTURES

Aboitiz Corporate Center, Manuel Cuenço Avenue, Banilad, Cebu City Philippines 6000

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.** which is scheduled to be held on 14 May 2001 per the By-laws of the Company, will be held on 15 May 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the Ballroom, Cebu Marriott Hotel, Cebu City, in view of the national elections scheduled on 14 May 2001. The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Stockholders' Meeting
5. Presentation of the Report of the President and of the Board of Directors
6. Ratification of the Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Corporate Officers and Management for the year 2000-2001
7. Election of External Auditors
8. Election of Directors
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed 30 March 2001 as the record date for determining the stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting. Accordingly, only stockholders of record as of 30 March 2001 shall be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

WE ARE NOT ASKING YOU FOR A PROXY AND YOU ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND US A PROXY.

For those unable to attend the Stockholders' Meeting in Cebu, a Stockholders' Briefing will be conducted in Manila on 17 May 2001 at 3:00 p.m., at the Rizal Ballroom C, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City, Philippines.

For the Board of Directors.

Elsa R. Divinagracia
(SGD) ELSA R. DIVINAGRACIA
Assistant Corporate Secretary

Gov't...

(From page B1)

was justified in firing some of the striking workers because they performed poorly in their jobs.

The Department of Labor and Employment has treated the striking labor union with kid gloves for fear that other labor unions would stage similar protest actions to sympathize with their colleagues. The DOLE said it was the agency's duty to ensure that all labor rights were upheld, including the right to due process, before being booted out of their jobs. Malacañang was also wary of making any firm decision on the issue because of the coming May 14 elections.

The strike, which began last March 28 and lasted for 14 days, was initiated by the company's union to express solidarity with the dismissal of 223 employees and suspension of 77 workers allegedly without due process.

The government had to step into the worsening labor problem at Toyota for fear that it could force other Japanese firms to pack their bags and shift their assembly operations to other parts of the region due to the rising labor activism in the country.

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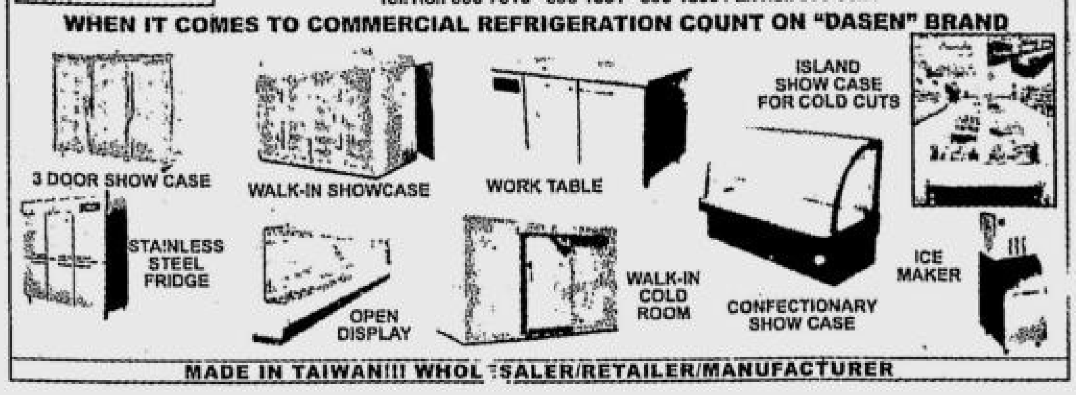

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The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), on behalf of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) and their respective Prequalification, Bid and Awards Committees (PBACs), would like to invite interested Local and Foreign Firms to apply for prequalification and eventually, to submit a bid, if pre-qualified, for the Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design-Build-Lease Contract in the following provinces.

Oriental Mindoro - Municipalities of Bansud, Baco, Gloria and San Teodoro;
Palawan - Municipalities of Bataraza and Magsaysay,
Nueva Vizcaya - Municipalities of Sta. Fe, Villaverde and Bayombong-Solano

Prequalification documents are available for issuance to interested potential bidders at the 3rd floor, Industrial Restructuring & Research (IRR), DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City with telephone nos. 867-3221 and 867-3233, Fax no. 815-1517; DBP Branches in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro; Puerto Princesa City, Palawan; and Solano, Nueva Vizcaya; DBP Area Management Offices in Lucena City and in Ilagan, Isabela, and the offices of the Mayors of the participating municipalities. Documents shall be made available to interested bidders from April 30 - May 4, 2001.

Five copies of the duly accomplished prequalification statement together with all the documents required to support the statement shall be submitted to the DBP Head Office in Makati City c/o IRR on or before 5:00 p.m. of May 11, 2001 (Friday).

The PBACs of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such bids as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating Local Government Units.

(Sgd.) **MARIETTO A. ENECIO**
Vice-President
Development Bank of the Philippines

(PDI--April 30, May 1 & 2, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the later Rosita Jimenez Bernabe has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 235 ; Page No. 47, Book No. XVII ; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Fernando T. Collantes of Pasig City (PDI- April 18, 25 & May 2, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that I, Ulrich Bosse, German citizen, have lost my ICR with No. 269499. Anyone who finds said document, kindly return it to the holder or to the Bureau Of Immigration within 10 days from this publication. Please contact holder at 645-5338.
(April 25 & May 2, 9, 2001)

Passport No. 12167496 Islamic Republic of Iran Belong to Mohammad Panahandeh Lost April 19, 2001 in LRT any one Found Pls. Call 843-8101

PERSONAL

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O, Holy St. Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman to Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, I humbly beg your great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and most urgent need. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke thy aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eight day your prayers will be answered.
Thank You Holy Spirit. **JBF**

PERSONAL

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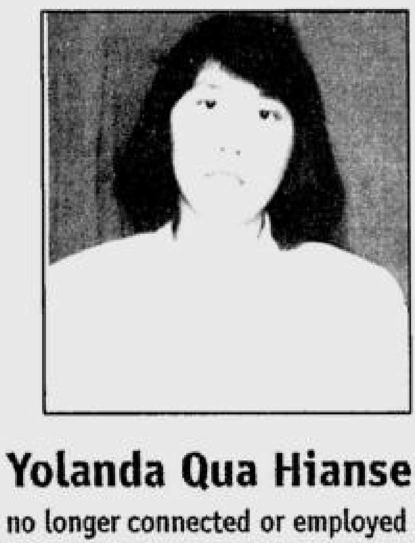

Yolanda Qua Hiansen
is no longer connected or employed with
ALLIED BANKING CORPORATION.
Information on"**ESTAFA**" has been filed against her before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court, Branch 267, docketed as Criminal Case No. 117404. Any transaction entered into with her will not be honored by the Bank.

For any information as to her whereabouts, please call the:

Corporate Security Department
ALLIED BANKING CORPORATION
Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Ave. Makati City
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Any information provided shall be treated with strict confidentiality.

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(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

IN a petition it filed on March 31 this year, the Presidential Commission on Good Government asked the Supreme Court to block the nomination of ousted President Joseph Estrada's brother-in-law, Raul de Guzman, and four other Estrada directors to San Miguel Corp.'s board and defer the company's annual stockholders' meeting tomorrow to give the Macapagal administration more time to field its own nominees.

On the eve of the May 3 stockholders' meeting, the Supreme Court had yet to act on the PCGG's petition and, for the first time since it sequestered nearly half of San Miguel's shares in 1986, the government was facing the prospect of having no direct hold of the single biggest private asset under its trust.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo admitted all five Estrada directors could retain their board seats for at least one more year, a dreadful situation for the government that, he said, begged the question: "Who will they represent on San Miguel's board?"

Apart from De Guzman, a UP professor and member of the UP Board of Regents, the other Estrada directors are: Alan Lee, owner of Kessel Ventures; lawyer and film producer Espiridion Laxa; Benjamin Paulino, cofounder of the Philippine School of Business Administration; and Hermogenes Tantoco, spouse of former First Lady Loi Ejercito's chief of staff.

Marcelo said based on the minutes of San Miguel's board meetings from July 1998 to Feb. 28 this year, the five Estrada directors were part of a rubber stamp board of Marcos and Estrada crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. "They hardly questioned any of the deals proposed by management," he said.

The PCCG, in its petition, said should the stockholders' meeting push through as scheduled, "the respondents (San Miguel management and the Estrada directors) are poised to perform the very unlawful and illegal acts sought to be restrained."

The PCGG said the "recalcitrant" Estrada directors betrayed the government by refusing to resign, backing Cojuangco's position not to reopen the nominations and buying their own qualifying shares to perpetuate themselves for another year. "To add insult to injury, the Estrada directors will probably claim for themselves director's fees and bonuses reportedly in the amount of P40 million instead of remitting this to the government," it said.

Management stressed that the nominations for tomorrow's elections had been closed as of Jan. 20 this year and that the PCGG was too late in submitting its new nominees. The Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System were allowed to change their directors and nominees because these were submitted before the company's Feb. 1 board meeting.

Former San Miguel corporate secretary Jose Feria says there will be no board vacancy unless the Estrada directors resign. This is the first time in 15 years that the PCGG trustees on the San Miguel board have refused to resign.

But the PCGG insists that the law allows it to remove and change its representatives to the San Miguel board at any time.

Marcelo admitted that the government was facing a formidable opposition in its drive to wrestle control of San Miguel, considering Cojuangco has two of the country's largest law firms in his stable, not to mention lawyer Estelito Mendoza, who most lawyers consider as in a league of his own.

Even if the government does block the five Estrada directors from taking their positions on the board, the board can still go on with a quorum of 10 directors. Cojuangco will continue to control the board with at least seven directors even if the GSIS and SSS succeed in getting a third representative on the board.

When Cojuangco was elected as chair on July 7, 1998, there were only eight directors present following the resignation of five directors led by Andres Soriano III.

No safeguards

Without full government representation on the board, the PCGG is worried that no one will perform the duty of safeguarding the government's interest in the company from the possible dissipation of assets to possible conflict of interest in deals entered into by the company.

The PCGG is concerned that San Miguel's vast resources could be used wantonly in the coming May 14 elections, considering Cojuangco is an ally of jailed President Joseph Estrada. Estrada was Cojuangco's running mate when he ran for President in 1992.

"The fear and danger that respondent San Miguel and its assets will be used for political purposes in the coming elections to favor Mr. Estrada's candidates are neither unfair to Mr. Cojuangco nor entirely speculative. They present a clear and present danger of prejudice to the stockholders of San Miguel and to San Miguel itself, which the proper nominees of PCGG can definitely prevent," the PCGG said.

In its proxy solicitation form, GSIS general manager and San Miguel director Winston Garcia said: "It is common knowledge that San Miguel is now being run and managed by individuals and consultants who may have authority but without line responsibility. An independent audit must be used to ensure that no dissipation of assets occurs or has occurred under the present San Miguel management."

The PCGG dared Cojuangco to submit to the Supreme Court a special Sycip, Gorres, Velayo audit report in 1986, "which indicated a gross dissipation of assets worth about P193 million which were used for special contributions presumably for political purposes."

In his first board meeting as chair, Cojuangco put on record his denial of "statements in the March 22, 1986 minutes that there were numerous complaints about the involvement by officers in partisan politics which caused demoralization and destabilization within the company." He claimed these allegations were based on anonymous and unsubstantiated charges.

The PCGG also said "there were reports that some P1.4 billion worth of funds from San Miguel and its retirement fund were used to give interest-free advances to Mr. Cojuangco's privately owned coconut oil mills and Coconut Industry Investment Fund oil mills, as well as to secure guarantees for the purchase of Pepsi Cola by Mr. Cojuangco."

Cojuangco previously initiated changes in the company's bylaws, particularly provisions that mandated a two-thirds vote of shareholders on the sale of its subsidiaries or affiliates that represent more than 10 percent of its assets and investments in non-allied businesses.

In the minutes, director Estelito Mendoza said these provisions were added to the bylaws by the PCGG in 1987 and 1994 "probably on the misplaced anticipation that the company would indiscriminately dispose assets."

Mendoza said these provisions were too restrictive since the Corporation Code required two-thirds vote only on the sale of all the assets of the company. He said these provisions placed San Miguel at a disadvantage against other corporations, especially in its ability to react in the face of the regional economic crisis and rising competition.

Macapagal nominees

In lieu of the Estrada directors, the PCGG is fielding former Social Security System Administrator Renato Valencia, former Far East Bank and Trust Co. president Octavio Espiritu, former Justice Hector Hofileña, retired Maj. Gen. Leo Alvez and Franklin Fuentebella as its nominees.

Espiritu accepted the government's nomination because he felt it would be interesting to be on the board of one of the largest food and beer manufacturing and distribution companies in the region.

"San Miguel has been the most admired company in Southeast Asia in the '60s and '70s, but ever since the sequestration, it has become a sort of political football, which a company like San Miguel should not be," he said.

He said in analyzing San Miguel's performance since 1998, credit should be given to the previous management under Soriano, which engineered the sale of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. to Australian bottler Coca-Cola Amatil—a move vigorously opposed by Cojuangco when they were still in the board's minority—and paved the way for the sale of Nestlé Foods Inc. "The old management should be credited for planting the seeds and for management for taking advantage," Espiritu said.

In its petition, the PCGG said the Cojuangco management could not claim all the bragging rights for the disposals of the major assets since these were nurtured and had flourished under the previous management.

San Miguel management and a number of analysts agree that San Miguel's performance in the last two years was due to Cojuangco's ability to impose his strong will on the company's direction.

The fear of most stock analysts in the ouster of Cojuangco in San Miguel is that the government does not have the political will to make the changes necessary to boost the company's operations.

But GSIS' Garcia countered that nobody was indispensable at the company, not even Cojuangco who agreed that he was not indispensable.

Espiritu believes there are other brilliant managers who can make San Miguel achieve its full potential. "This country would suffer if there were only one who can run that company. I am sure there are others; we are not bankrupt managerially," he said.

For Espiritu, the main issue in all these deals is the lack of transparency in the transactions.

"Strategically, we can make a case whether these deals are good or not for the company. But whatever direction the company takes, the concerned parties should be made aware of the values of the transaction and details of the transaction," he said.

So, while the government still has custody of the shares, Espiritu said the government should maintain its role of ensuring that the decisions made and direction taken by the company were discussed openly on the board.

Espiritu said the final solution to this chronic ownership battle hobbling the company was for the government to privatize the company by selling at least the sequestered 27 percent owned by the CIIF.

This was why GSIS' Garcia said it was important for the government to control up to eight board seats through the election of Macapagal's nominees and the addition of another seat to the two seats controlled by the GSIS and SSS to "accelerate the ownership resolution and privatization of San Miguel."

Espiritu said the government's presence in San Miguel was but an "accident" that should have been remedied a long time ago.

Espiritu is giving himself three years on the board of San Miguel to oversee its privatization. But that is easier said than done.

Court clears SMC meeting

THE MANDALUYONG Regional Trial Court has junked a petition by state pension fund Government Service Insurance System to reopen nominations to San Miguel Corp.'s board of directors.

The court also dismissed GSIS' bid to derail tomorrow's meeting of San Miguel stockholders.

In a five-page decision issued on Monday, the court ruled that while GSIS, as a stockholder, has an "inherent right" to nominate its candidates to the San Miguel board, "these rights must be exercised in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws of the company."

Under San Miguel's bylaws, the deadline for the nomination of directors was closed on Jan. 20, 2001.

"For the proper implementation of this provision, all nominations for the election of directors of the stockholders shall be submitted in writing to the board of directors on or before Jan. 20 or at such earlier date the board may fix," the court ruled.

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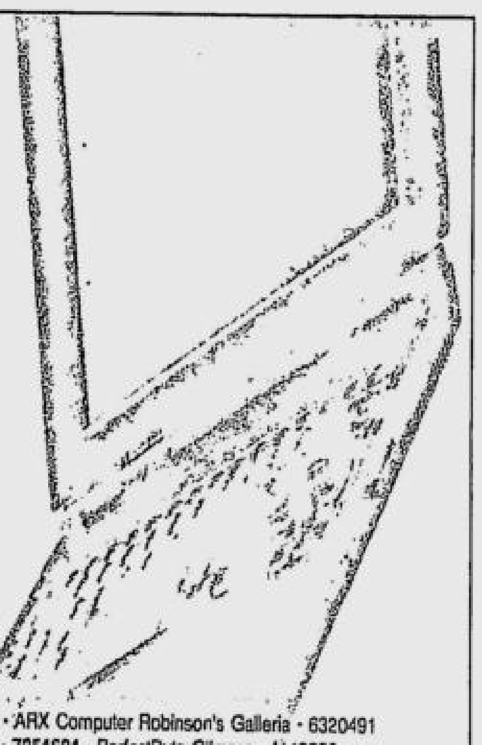

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Gov't to maintain tariff barriers on polymers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE MACAPAGAL administration is willing to maintain high tariff walls to protect the petrochemical industry but at a much shorter period than the 10 years sought by the industry.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said domestic petrochemical players should not "dream" of getting tariff protection for up to 10 years because this would be rejected by other Asean members.

Duties on polymers or base materials for plastic products were scheduled to go down to 5 percent by 2003 in line with the start of the Asean Free Trade Area where duties on intra-Asean trade should be kept to a maximum of 5 percent.

The petrochemical industry wants the government to maintain duties on polymers at 15 percent for the next 10 years.

At best, the industry was likely to get only five years of tariff protection.

Roxas said Malacañang has already tapped the DTI's trade group to negotiate for the extension of tariff protection on petrochemical products as part of the government's commitment to support the establishment of a $700-million naphtha cracker project in the country.

Roxas was expected to go to the Asean meeting this week.

With sufficient cover from foreign competition, petrochemical firms were expected to dominate the domestic market while sharpening their capacities in anticipation of the inevitable opening of the market.

Local players are using their planned multi-billion investments in a naphtha cracker in Bataan to underscore their commitment to develop an integrated petrochemical industry in the country.

The construction of a single naphtha cracker to serve all monomer requirements of local players was delayed by financing concerns as well as conflict on a common equity sharing for the project.

The state-run PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. was expected to take at least 20 percent in the project. The balance would be split between the prospective investors such as Chinese Petroleum Corp. of Taiwan, Petrochemical Corp. of Asia-Pacific, Bataan Polyethylene Corp., Philippine Resins Industries Inc., Mabuhay Vinyl Corp., JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., and Sumitomo Corp. of Japan.

Based on initial plans, the proposed naphtha cracker would be put up in Bataan with a capacity of 350,000 to 500,000 metric tons annually. This was estimated to be enough to meet present demand and future increases.

The consortium should finish the naphtha cracker by 2002 or 2003 in time for the start of Afta.

Lack of debt relief plan derails Bayantel's talks with partners

By Anthony O. Alcantara

NEGOTIATIONS for the entry of foreign and local partners in the Lopez-owned Bayan Telecommunications Inc. have been put on hold pending the completion of a plan to restructure some $500 million in debts.

Bayantel expects to complete the debt restructuring plan as soon as Bank of America, its financial adviser, submits its proposal.

"We have to fix the restructuring first. So far, Bayantel is in negotiations with Globe (Telecom) and PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) for possible partnerships," a ranking Bayantel official said.

Telenor of Norway, Bayantel's prospective partner for its P6-billion cellular phone venture, also awaits the decision of the Supreme Court on the fate of Bayantel's cellular telephone mobile system (CMTS) license, which was earlier nullified by the Court of Appeals

"We expect to come up with the definitive debt restructuring plan by next year." the source said.

Bayantel wants to get the debt restructuring plan out of the way as it sorely needs new local and foreign partners to provide fresh funds and pare down its high debt level

Bayantel is in dire financial straits due to its heavy debt burden that was exacerbated by the depreciation of the peso against the US dollar. It also cited the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the poor subscriber uptake of its available telecommunications facilities.

These financial problems forced Bayantel to default on the payment of $200 million worth of bonds maturing in 2006 even as it continues to pay interests on loans from commercial banks.

J. Xavier Gonzales, Benpres Holdings Corp. executive vice president, said in a separate interview that there were talks with some local phone companies such as PLDT, Globe Telecom and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. for a possible partnership to help with the debt restructuring.

"There were talks but there was nothing definite yet," he said.

These possible local and foreign partners would help Bayantel restructure its debts either through equity infusion, loans or other arrangements.

Meanwhile, Bayantel filed a petition with the Supreme Court to overturn the Court of Appeals' decision to withdraw Bayantel's provisional authority for cellular phone service granted by the National Telecommunications Commission last year.

The CA withdrew the provisional authority saying that putting up a new cellular phone network would adversely affect cellular phone firm Express Telecommunications Inc., where Bayantel has a 40-percent equity.

Bayantel stopped infusing money into Extelcom since the business did not take off and due to management problems with its partners.

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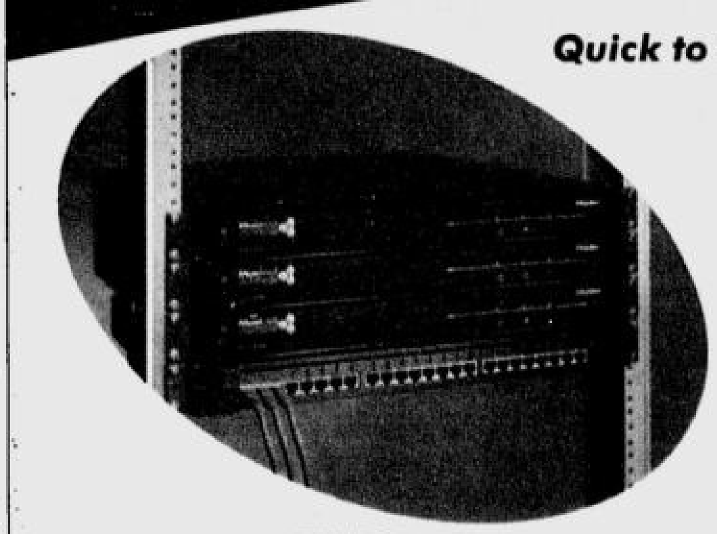

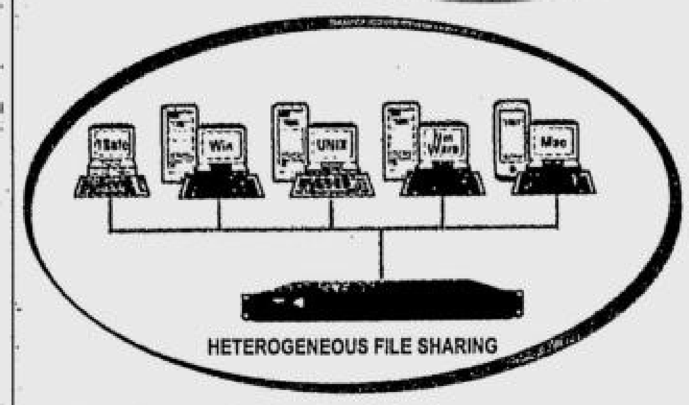

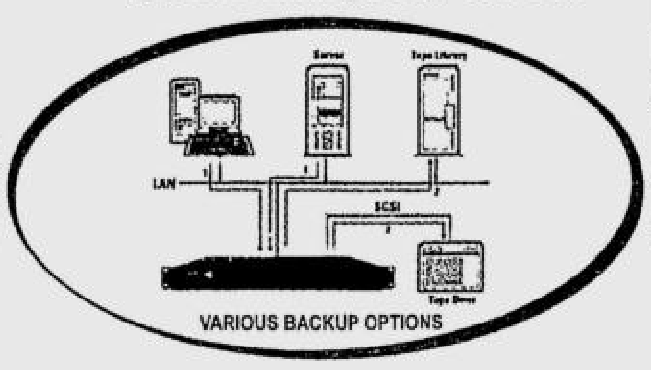

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Southeast Asia seen as 'wallflower' of trade

TOKYO—With the Americas eyeing a huge free trade zone and China exerting a magnetic attraction for foreign firms, worries are growing that Southeast Asia will end up as the wallflower at the global trade and investment dance.

Persistent political instability—highlighted again on Monday in the Philippines—coupled with signs of backsliding on plans for an Asian Free Trade Area risk driving foreign investors into more welcoming arms, thereby undercutting the region's capacity to recover its former dynamism, analysts say.

Robert Lees, executive director of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, a Honolulu-based business group, said the only way for the 10-strong Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) to staunch the flood of foreign direct investment into China at Asean's expense was to hasten the creation of Afta.

"Then they have a big market. Otherwise they're a bunch of interesting little economies that in no way shape or form compare with the Americas and/or China," Lees said.

"And yet you can't get Asean to take a big gulp and make Afta happen," he lamented.

Indeed, with growth slipping and business elites under pressure, some of the original six Asean members that are due to reduce tariffs to a maximum five percent by the end of 2002 as part of the Afta plan are increasingly dragging their feet.

Indonesia, citing its weak economic condition, has said it would not meet its commitment until others had done so. It also wants to exclude sugar to protect its cane farmers.

The Philippines plans to ask for a delay in cutting tariffs on petrochemical products at the request of a foreign-backed consortium that plans to build the country's first naphtha cracker plant.

Mignon Chan, director general of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, which advises the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, said governments were trying to strike the right balance between opening up to trade and investment while minimising their vulnerability to the sort of damaging capital outflows that exacerbated Asia's 1997 financial crisis.

"But overall, it doesn't mean they're shutting out the liberalization process," she said.

Trade experts had feared backsliding after Malaysia was granted more time last year to lower auto tariffs in order to shield its Proton national car project.

"All these things are a product of economic strife and of the protectionism and nationalism and fear of foreigners that come with economic strife," Daniel Gay of Strategic Intelligence, a Singapore consultancy, said. *Reuters*

Role of trade as anti-poverty tool highlighted

WASHINGTON—World Bank policymakers on Monday highlighted the role of trade in the campaign to eradicate poverty and said the institution should step up efforts to secure increased access to global markets for poor countries.

The Development Committee also labeled AIDS "a grave threat to the development process" and said there was a need for "a substantial increase in global resources for HIV/AIDS-related analysis, research and action programs," some of which could be "channeled through a possible new multilateral trust fund for AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis."

Bank officials said momentum for such a fund was building among international organizations as well as leading industrialized nations, adding that an announcement on the campaign would likely come before too much longer.

The Development Committee, made up of finance ministers representing all parts of the world, described trade as being of "critical importance for economic growth and poverty reduction."

They said the World Bank was, therefore, called on to help developing countries boost their ability to export to markets in the industrialized world, notably by streamlining investment regulations, eliminating obstacles to smooth transportation and improving telecommunications and business services.

Bank spokeswoman Caroline Anstey, speaking ahead of Monday's session, said Wolfensohn's "view is that debt relief without market access is a sham." *AFP*

US to crack down on IPR violations

WASHINGTON—The United States on Monday warned Ukraine, the European Union and a long list of other countries it would vigorously enforce trade laws protecting intellectual property rights on goods ranging from music CDs to pharmaceuticals.

In a statement, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said the Bush administration would use sanctions and other measures to guard against copyright, patent and trademark infringement.

"Enforcement must remain a key priority, and we must step up our efforts to monitor compliance with our trade agreements and insist on performance by our trading partners," Zoellick said.

In its annual "Special 301" report, the US Trade Representative's Office looked at copyright, trademark and patent protections in about 80 countries.

Ukraine, which has been under the threat of US sanctions since March 12, topped the US list of problem countries.

The US music industry estimates it has lost about $200 million annually to Ukrainian pirate producers who sell their illegal discs throughout central and Eastern Europe.

Despite a US threat to impose sanctions as early as June 12, the Ukrainian government has made "no meaningful progress" to solve the piracy problem, Zoellick said.

The United States also warned China and Paraguay it would continue to closely monitor their activities.

Bilateral agreements with both countries allow the United States to "move directly to trade sanctions if there is slippage in either country's enforcement," Zoellick said. *Reuters*

Equitable . . .

(From page B1)

Those who were backing Javier would likely push for a deferment of any action to appoint new management but it would be a very tight fight, the source pointed out.

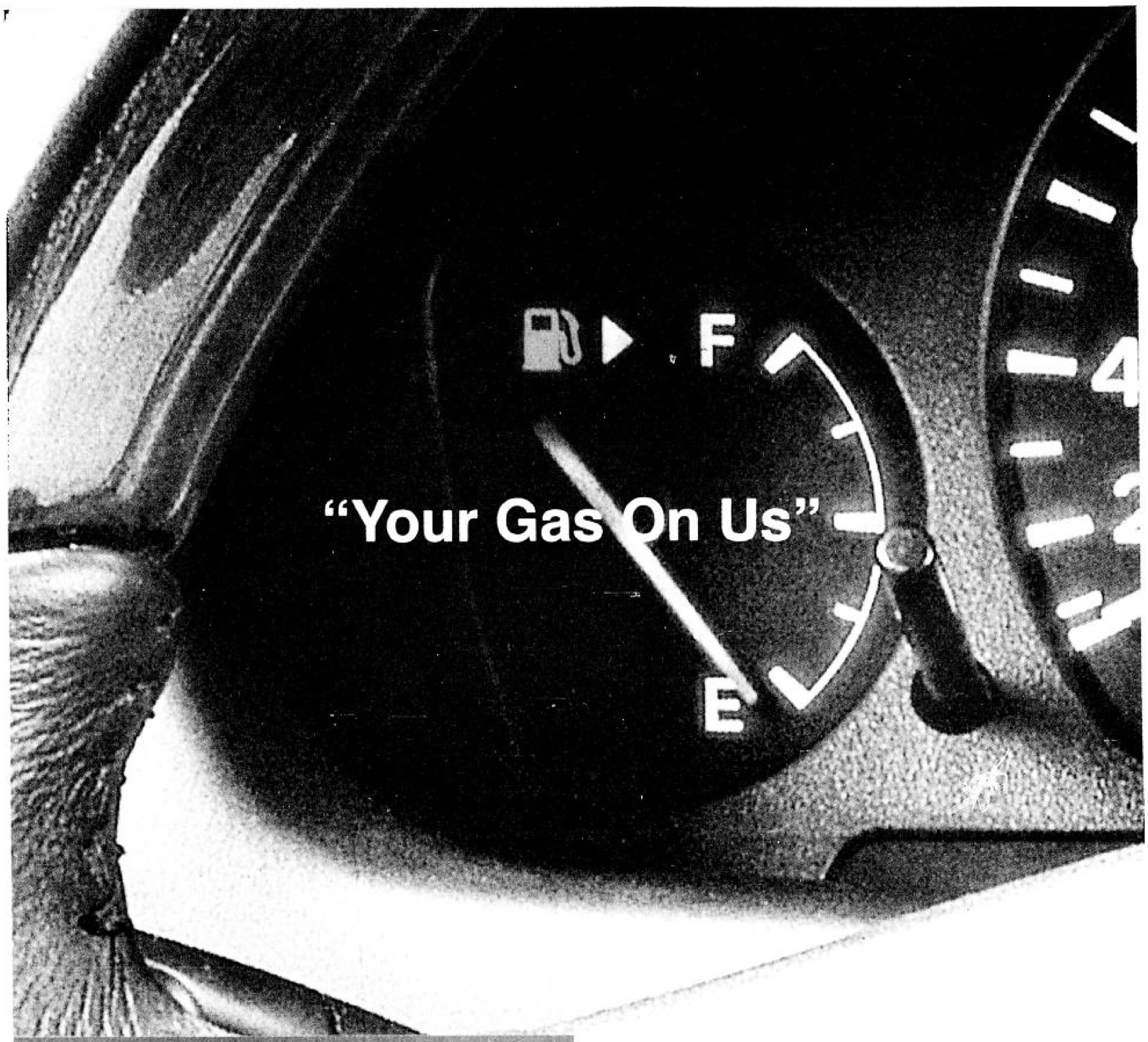
The source said the board directors who support Javier's stay include state-controlled pension fund Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia, GSIS executive vice president Roberto Malonzo, lawyer Ricardo Leong, Martin Romualdez, Vergara and four other members of the Go family.

While the pro-Javier group account for nine board seats, two of the directors, namely John C.B. Go and Leong, will not be able to attend the meeting, thus leaving doubt over whether the GSIS-Go group will prevail against the four representatives of SSS led by its president, Vitaliano Nañagas, and Go and Conway.

A source said the bank board may review the performance of Equitable under the management of the Vergara-Javier team and Solidbank Corp. under Vistan before the banks' respective mergers in 1999.

Data from the annual reports of each bank showed that Equitable's profit grew nearly 300 percent or three-fold from P711 million in 1995 to P2.1 billion in 1997 before dropping to P1.585 billion in 1998, as the banking industry then felt the full impact of the Asian financial crisis.

On the other hand, Solidbank's profit rose 50 percent from P554 million in 1995 to P807 million in 1997, but dropped to P101 million in 1998.



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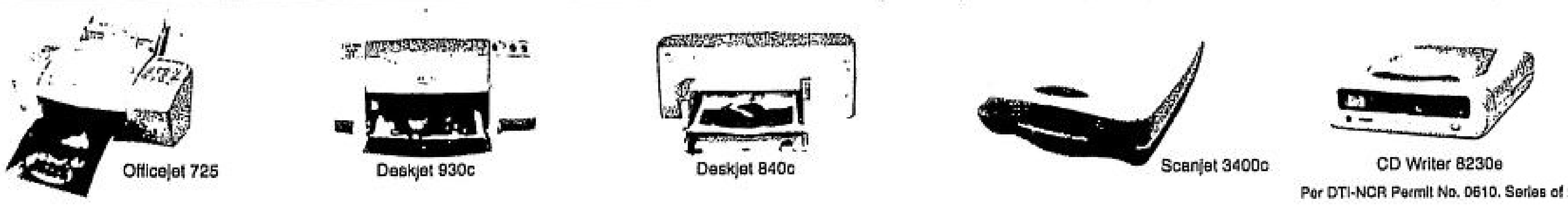

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PEOPLE *at* WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Career switch leads to HR path

CAREER*Tales*

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

HUMAN resources practitioner Ernie O. Cecilia was 26 years old, when he decided to switch from accounting to his present profession. At that time, he was working as a clearinghouse supervisor of the now-defunct Pilipinas Bank and Trust Company. "I held a responsible position but I wanted something more dynamic and challenging," he says.

One day, he came across a job ad of San Miguel Corporation, which was then in the process of changing management styles. Says Cecilia, "They were looking for a staff planning assistant. My application was turned down because I did not have the necessary background." He is a graduate of business administration with a major in accounting from the University of the East.

But Cecilia was persistent. "I appealed and was granted an interview with one of the bosses, a VP, who must have been impressed because he decided to give me a chance." He stressed three things during the crucial two-hour interview, namely, he was open to change, he could learn and learn fast, and he was determined to succeed in his new career.

Labor relations

In three months, Cecilia was made a regular employee and subsequently spent 18 1/2 years at SMC. In time, he became labor relations manager and later on, AVP for Human Resources, Packaging Products Corp. (a subsidiary of SMC). "I helped delawyerize labor relations at San Miguel," says Cecilia. "The company set up a group of non-lawyers to approach labor relations problems from the point of view of business." Labor relations, which happens to be Cecilia's expertise, are usually handled by lawyers.

Thoroughly seasoned, Cecilia has had 25 years of training and experience. "I learned the ropes the hard way," he says, adding that his background in accounting has proved to be useful. "It has familiarized me with bottom line results and it gives me a business sense."

Strictly speaking, anyone who would like to practice HR must have a knowledge of behavioral science. "Certain schools now offer HR as a full course," informs Cecilia. He himself acquired most of his expertise from seminars and workshops here and abroad. At one time, he attended University of Michigan's Human Resources Executive Program. But Cecilia believes nothing beats learning on the job.

HR skills

Possessing an innate liking for people and the capacity to understand them and their problems, Cecilia is a natural for the profession. Approachable, easy to talk to and able to mingle and be comfortable with all kinds of people, he has a broad perspective. "I'm able to see the big picture and I can distinguish people from their problems, which enables me to focus on finding solutions."

In order to be a competent HR practitioner, says Cecilia, certain skills are necessary. To begin with, one needs to have people skills or soft skills, which include the ability to listen and counsel, to handle interviews and meetings. "Communication skills are essential," stresses Cecilia.

Just as important are quantitative skills or being able to understand financial statements and to talk bottom lines with CEOs. Another requirement is being effective in decision-making and in implementing policies. Lastly, one must be creative, which refers to the ability to develop solutions to problems.

According to Cecilia, he was able to hone his skills while working for well-established corporations.

Caltex

After he left San Miguel in 1994, he joined Caltex Phils. Inc., where he served as manager for Employee Relations and Services. At Caltex, Cecilia invariably headed the management's negotiating panel. He was successful in striking a deal with eight unions and in instituting a performance-based increase, a first in Philippine labor relations history.

Following his stint with Caltex, Cecilia moved to United Laboratories, Inc., where he was AVP for Human Resources for two years. Shortly after, he decided to put up his own practice, EC Business Solutions and Career Center of which he is president and CEO.

In his practice, Cecilia has two sets of clients, namely, corporations and private schools. Jobs are either ongoing or project-type (contractual).

Admittedly, Cecilia spends a lot of his time assisting schools for a minimum fee. "I usually deal with guidance counselors. I would like to help students adapt to the transition from the academe to the workplace. I would like to help them cope with the changing demands of industry," he says.

Clients

Cecilia explains that corporate clients usually need help in managing the business. Almost always, problems are labor-related. Once in a while, he also gets involved in government bureaus or entities. "These are project-type and I do them pro bono."

Cecilia says being active in personnel management groups such as Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and Asian Executive Service Organization of the Philippines (Aesop) adds prestige to his practice and helps it as well. He has served as officer in both organizations.

Making good and succeeding on his own as a consultant has always been Cecilia's greatest challenge in the profession. There is a challenge too in being able to strike a balance between earning a decent living and being useful to society. "In any successful career," says Cecilia, "one comes to a point where he feels he ought to give back, to repay society for the privileges he has earned and enjoys." He does this principally by sharing his time and imparting what he knows to schools and colleges, giving talks on career, trying to touch the lives of students and preparing them to succeed in their chosen careers.

Self-fulfillment

Whatever fulfillment Cecilia obtains from his work comes from a sense of self-actualization and a sense of being able to help. "Making some impact on the lives of others is more than enough," he says.

In terms of achievement, Cecilia would like to continue to pursue excellence in his profession. Because he has already done a lot, he believes he no longer has to prove anything. "But, there's still so much to do and I would like to do my share."

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

CECILIA

In terms of goal, he would like to see his consultancy firm grow. "However, I believe HR functions should go beyond personal advancement. I would like to set a good example to aspiring HR practitioners."

Cecilia does not hesitate to pass on bits of wisdom and practical advice, not only to budding HR consultants, but to anyone who hopes to succeed. He enumerates, 1) set clear goals for yourself; 2) learn as fast as you can; 3) take advantage of every opportunity; 4) have business and quantitative skills; 5) take up further studies; and 6) never lose compassion for others; keep your humanity even as you deal with data and information.

"Be focused and results-oriented," suggests Cecilia. "Have constancy of purpose and never lose sight of your goal."

(To mark People at Work's first year anniversary, Ernie Cecilia will be conducting for free a seminar on "Values of the Global Pinoy" on May 30, 2001. To register, call 897-8808 local 554 or e-mail peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

Married woman wants to stop boss' amorous advances

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

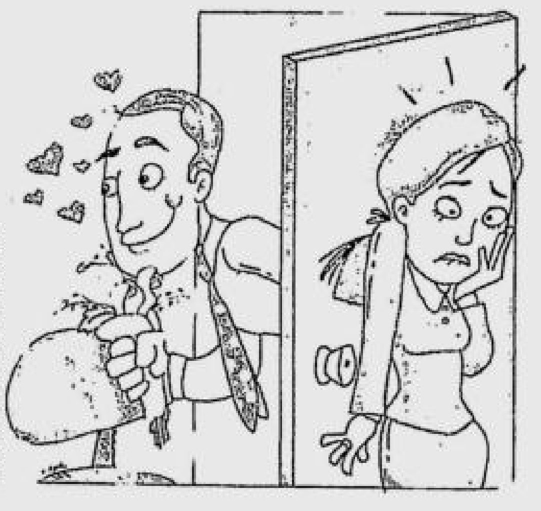


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

HELLO! Peace be with you! I am very much anxious to write to you, since I really need help from someone like you. I am now facing the biggest ordeal of my life. I am 30 years old and married. My marriage is an exemplary one although my husband is not so much of a showy or romantic person but I am accustomed to his style.

I am working in the province and my boss is the most respected in our field of work. All our co-workers see him as Mr. Nice Guy and Mr. Clean, very kind, generous and most admired in the company. I like him but what I did not know was that he has feelings for me. He shows me affection and cares for me as if I was his wife or girlfriend. I even tolerate his kissing and hugging me passionately. But I don't want to go beyond this.

He is well regarded by my family. Recently, I talked to him and told him to stop showing his affection and to stop telling me that he loves me. I cannot tolerate it anymore. The more I keep working in this office, the more I feel the guilt.

My husband has a little business of his own. But his income is not enough to address our expenses at home, since we help support an extended family. My compensation is a great help in coping with the expenditures.

I haven't told anyone, specially my husband, because I fear the consequences. I am afraid that my husband will make me stop working. I thought of resigning to look for another job, but jobs are scarce here due to the economic crisis. In this job, I'm earning the best salary one could have in our city.

Now I'm so confused, do I have to give up my job? If I give it up, will not my co-workers, family, and friends wonder why? Please tell me what to do, how to keep this from destroying our reputations and still keep my job.

I submitted all these and everything to the Lord—how can I surpass this trial? You might be his instrument. I would be so much delighted if you could give me some enlightenment.

Miserable Employee

From your letter, I can sense that you are at a crossroad wondering how to decide a difficult and sticky situation. In front of you there are seemingly three possible decisions. One, to resign from your job and tell your husband the truth of your situation. Two, to keep your job and hopefully your boss respects your decision to stop treating you like a wife or girlfriend. Three, to continue feeling guilty and keep the status quo. But there is a fourth, file a complaint of sexual harassment against your boss and keep your job.

Often, we can make very good professional decisions at work. Yet, in our emotional lives, we can be totally incompetent. So these are the instances when we need prayer and God's enlightenment. As all the books on emotional intelligence would say, emotions are the less evolved part of our brain and this explains our difficulty in dealing with emotional dilemmas.

Clarify decision objective

Before making a decision, what is critical is for you to decide what your decision objective is. Is it to find long-term happiness and peace of mind in the security of your family? Or to enjoy the flattery of your boss experiencing the rise and wane of fleeting passion and thrill of an illicit romance?

Recently, I came across a national bestseller at a bookstore entitled," The Lady, Her Lover and Her Lord" by T.D. Jakes. It is a very impressive piece of literature for its insight and sensitivity. He writes about three relationships that a married woman must keep balanced to achieve fulfillment in life. First is her relationship with herself. If a woman does not have this, she will recklessly pursue external relationships in the hope of finding peace and love. Second is a woman's relationship with her husband. Marriage is a sacred relationship. There is nothing more gratifying than a relationship with a partner who loves and respects you. If she respects herself, then she can share her life generously with her husband. Third, which is the base of the triangle, is the need for a relationship with God, her Lord. He provides the anchor for the soul and the woman gains strength and tenacity from personal prayer.

Opposing values

Today, we live in a world, bombarded with mass media, the Internet, and text messages that provide us with opposite and often opposing values. It takes courage to go against the current and keep one's values intact.

Jakes explains that the very greatness of a woman, that which gives her great value, can make her the target of evil, just like Eve in the Garden of Eden, who thought she was doing something good and positive. Men can appeal to the woman's needs that make her vulnerable. I suspect that your boss used some of these tactics on you.

He can appeal to your need to communicate. He can entice you with smooth words and interesting conversations to beguile you. Words used correctly can capture a woman's heart. He can appeal to your need to help and contribute. The maternal role and instincts of the woman make it natural for her to be a giver.

He can appeal to your need for intimacy and affection that may lead to immediate gratification but may be dangerous in the long run. He can address your pride. It is the need to be superior to others. It is about wanting people to think we are better, the need to be acknowledged. He can flatter you and give you hollow praises.

Share dilemma

From my perspective, the best decision is to share your situation and dilemma with your husband and see in unity if it is right for you to resign from the job (it is not worth it—family unity is of a higher value than a job). But it is important for this to come straight from you. This is a delicate matter that eventually will surface and be discovered.

The revelation, I expect, will hurt him deeply, since a man needs to feel secure in the love of his wife. His ego will take a beating and he may feel betrayed. But your husband is the man who truly loves you and he will protect you. Take the heat. You know your man best.

You can turn this situation or problem into an opportunity to rebuild and renew your relationship. You may need to work out some flaws that made you entertain the temptation. You may want to be more open and expressive of your personal needs with your husband. It may be the need for more attention or space to breathe if he is too possessive. After all, marriage has made you one body and one soul.

Renew relationship

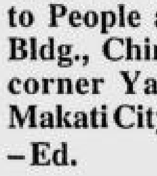
Often, we make excuses for not expressing care and love for each other. We are too busy. There is much work to be done. You can also recall your courtship days and how you kept the relationship alive. Building a lasting marriage takes time, energy and effort from both partners. For example, my husband and I have decided to go out once a week. It can be enjoyable and simple. You can have a quiet dinner out. Or take a stroll, laugh and enjoy a good conversation. Or take a swim or watch a movie. Whatever is of interest to the two of you.

The second option, which is to keep your job and hopefully your boss will respect your decision to stop treating you like a wife or girlfriend is not realistic and pragmatic. As a friend mentioned, for two people who are attracted to each other, it is not practical to expect the relationship to remain as a mere friendship or at a platonic level. We also have a saying that if a piece of wood stays too close to the fire, it will catch fire.

The third option, to remain in the status quo, is not possible. We wish to congratulate you for having the courage to write. We reinforce your desire to get out of the relationship with your boss before it is too late. Think also of all the things you will lose if you go along with his game: your self-esteem, your reputation, and your family. Better to lose a job.

Finally, if the job means so much to you and you want it at all cost, file a complaint for sexual harassment. But you need hard evidence to support your claims. Or else, it is your word against your boss.

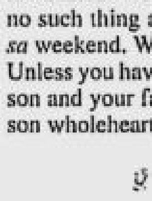
Take care of yourself. We ask God for you to have the grace to be strong and courageous. May the Easter season move you from death to life in the Risen Lord.



(Ms Puangco is the CEO and President of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice for problems at work through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

How are you spending your life?

RECIPES*for*
LEARNING



By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

HOW have you been feeling of late? How have you been spending your time lately? These two questions connect. The way you spend your time is the way you spend your life. This is what gives you the feeling of satisfaction, anxiety or boredom over your life.

Here's a list to help you describe your feelings more exactly: exhausted, confused, ecstatic, guilty, suspicious, angry, hysterical, frustrated, sad, confident, embarrassed, happy, mischievous, disgusted, frightened, enraged, ashamed, cautious, smug, depressed, overwhelmed, hopeful, lonely, lovestruck, jealous, bored, surprised, anxious, shocked, shy.

Let us now analyze your Time Log. In my last column, I asked you to take a long hard look at every activity and behavior and classify them under the headings Career/Business, Family, Spiritual, Social Responsibility, Relational, Personal and Circular File or Wastebasket. Why did you put those activities or behavior under those headings? How do you feel about them? What are you thinking about? This will make it easier for you to see a pattern in your life and to realize where the big chunks of your time go.

Life patterns

Moving on, let us discover some of these patterns in your life. First, determine your peak time. Determine which of the major chunks of your time is devoted to what major aspect (the headings) of your life? If, for example you spend the most productive time in your career/business life, highlight all these career/business activities and behaviors on your Time Log. Take note, I said productive time, not just any time. Do they happen mostly in the morning, afternoon or evening? What is the length of time it takes? One hour, two, three? On what days do they mostly happen? Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday? This is your peak career/business time. How do you feel during those times?

You can do this for the rest of your major activities and behaviors. Do you see any pattern? What is your busiest career/business time, day? What is your most productive time, day? What kind of results do you achieve during those times, days? How do you feel during those times? One implication of this is that if this is your most productive time, then you must protect it. For example, you don't entertain drop-in visitors or telephone calls during these times. As much as possible, you don't schedule meetings during those times. Spend those times doing tasks that you are solely responsible for, that you can do alone and for those brain-wracking, creative pursuits.

Family time

If your most enjoyable time with your family happens in the evenings, say, between 7-9 p.m., by all means protect that time for your family. If you can help it, be home by 7 p.m. and refrain from attending any social functions to coincide with those times. There is no such thing as "*Babawi na lang ako sa* weekend. We will eat out together." Unless you have a very compelling reason and your family accepts those reason wholeheartedly, then try very hard to save this time for your family on a regular basis.

Second, take a look at the quantity of time you spend on every activity and behavior that you have listed in your Time Log. Do you really need to spend five hours on a staff meeting? Do you need to forward or answer all the text and e-mail messages that you receive? Third, how do you react to unexpected events? Do you entertain anybody who comes into your office, offer them coffee and a cozy seat? Do you jump with a start at the sound of your boss's voice? Fourth, do you really need to do those tasks? Can't somebody else do them? Is there anybody who can do them better, faster at least cost?

Ask yourself more questions to get at the bottom of your "busyness." Are you accomplishing anything or are you simply doing something? How do you feel about these activities?

Next Wednesday, let us explore ways of using your time more productively as we continue our Workshop on Using Your Time Wisely and Productively to Achieve Your Lifeplan as You Continue Enjoying Your Life.

(E-mail feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

Inspired by our Career Tales?

HAVE you been inspired by any of our stories on Career Tales? If so, please write to us on what story inspired you most and why. Your feedback will help us select the "Most Inspiring Career Tale of the Year" to mark the first year anniversary of People at Work on May 31. E-mail *peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph* or write to People at Work, PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague St., 1200 Makati City, Philippines. –Ed.

Industrial peace starts with self

By Ernie O. Cecilia

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

INDUSTRIAL peace remains an elusive dream for many employers and employees. This is a sad reality although investors and employers know that they cannot operate in a hostile environment and employees realize that they can only have jobs if there are viable companies to work for.

As a businessman or manager, do you find it difficult to maintain a balance between profits and employee compensation? As an employee, do you feel that you are not getting enough rewards for the efforts you put in?

Perhaps, to succeed in labor management relations, you don't have to belabor the issues too much. Instead of looking for what's wrong in others, look for the good. Instead of watching what others do, watch what you do. If you seek industrial peace, start with yourself. The Holy Bible reassures us to "... seek, and you shall find..."

Here are a few more tips for those seeking peace in employer-employee relationships:

1. Live and let live.

Successful companies have made their suppliers and customers their real partners. Progressive companies even provide training for vendors' representatives, make their sales and technical staff work in their customers' premises, share confidential information with suppliers and customers, and help ensure the success of their partners. As the companies grow, so do their suppliers and customers.

If such a treatment is given to customers and vendors, it is more imperative that employees are treated not just as partners but as family. The new workplace has no place for animosity. Employees must also grow as the company grows. But employees must contribute to that growth, too, and not do anything silly to compromise the company's growth and profitability.

2. Show good faith.

In relationships between employers and employees, good faith is most needed. When one party tries to put one over the other, there is a breach of good faith. Then, credibility dwindles, animosity sets in, and peace breaks down.

Management must set the tone and take the lead by inculcating such values as honesty, integrity, teamwork, respect for the individual, among other values, in its own ranks, as well as among the employees. Do what you say and do what you say you will do.

On the other hand, even in times of industrial disputes, employees must turn in the best quality work and contribute to the creation of value that the customers are willing to pay for. In return, management must not hold back rewards for performance beyond expectation.

3. Simplify–avoid legalese and gobbledygook.

With apologies to my lawyer friends, maybe we should really simplify the rules, lest Shakespeare be proven right when he advocated, "First, let's kill all the lawyers."

Sometimes, the ingenuity of some lawyers abets the confusion in the workplace. Collective bargaining must be seen as a business process, not a legal exercise, and therefore must be the concern of businessmen. Beyond the "whereas and wherefore," the spirit of agreements or rules must be clear to the layman.

Gobbledygook is something we don't need, particularly as business is now conducted at the speed of light. For example, see if you can understand this: "The writer is disposed to regard as vehemently contrary to efficient office procedure and practice the utilization of the company's communications equipment or apparatus to conduct non-official business or processes." This would sound better as, "Don't use office phones or fax for personal business."

4. Communicate.

We cannot presume that people understand us because we said it. If communication is creating understanding, the burden is on the communicator to make the receiver understand his message.

The new workplace demands more innovative ways of communicating with all publics and stakeholders. Employers and employees must continually understand where the business is going, where it is at, what needs to be done to get where it wants to be, and, in no uncertain terms, what are expected of employees and what they can expect in return.

As a consultant, I'm often confronted with situations when the CEO does not want to talk to his employees for fear that he cannot promise even a meager salary increase. In such conditions, I believe that the CEO has all the more reason to communicate with his employees, lest they harbor unreasonable expectations.

5. Settle issues before sundown.

Industrial peace is not the absence of disputes. What is important is that there are mechanisms to settle issues expeditiously. People cannot work well when there are irritating and unresolved issues.

The best way to handle issues is to grab them by the horns and address them squarely, rather than sweeping them under the rug or diverting people's attention by creating other issues. The Bible suggests that issues be settled before sundown. So, settle your differences before they become emergencies.

When dealing with issues, focus on areas of agreements first. Then dissect and resolve differences. Joseph Addison once said, "If men would consider not so much wherein they differ, as wherein they agree, there would be far less of 'uncharitableness' and angry feeling in the world."

6. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

If we cannot contribute to peace, let us not be the cause for the lack of it. While others are working to solve a problem, it is very debilitating to see others fanning the fire, creating ill will, and dowsing cold water on possible solutions.

For every problem, there is a solution. Like a closed door, a problem just needs a key. Strive to look for the key. Maybe, you are the key, but you don't know it. Maybe, all it takes is a little sacrifice and the problem will be resolved.

Someone said that a problem is something we can do something about. Otherwise, it is simply a fact of life. Problems are meant to be solved. Don't just stand there; do something.

7. Look back, move forward.

Sometimes, what sets back progress towards peace is the nasty habit of clinging to the past and wishing that the good old times were here. You have no guarantee that what worked in the past will work again in the future. The problems of tomorrow can no longer be solved by the solutions of yesterday. The business of doing business today has changed the rules. It has even changed the game itself.

However, it is all right to remember the past. Use the lessons of the past as guide to the future. As George Santayana said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." On the other hand, Edmund Burke also admonished us, "You can never plan the future by the past."

8. Dare to accept change.

Changes are now all over the workplace—changes affect the very concept of work, job and employment. We have to view employer-employee relations in the context of these changes. Work is changing with the way business is conducted. The old concept of a job is slowly dying. There is now a shift in emphasis from employment to employability. The only real security is the ability to cope with the changes.

To wish that these changes were not here is an exercise in futility. The only way to go is to accept, prepare for, and cope with these changes. We cannot be where we want to be if we continue to stay where we are.

Change can cause some discomfort. But we must realize that there can be no improvement unless there is change. Harold Wilson's words ring loud and clear, "He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery."

9. Have a positive attitude.

I remember negotiating a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with a militant union after a recent strike. The CEO called me to his office one day and said, "Do you remember that these guys had a strike two months ago?"

I replied, "No. I remember having forgotten that while we were negotiating."

I was trying to have a more positive attitude at drawing up a mutually acceptable CBA. I did not want my biases to stand in the way of a fruitful negotiation. But of course, I recall all the nasty things they did and said to me during the strike. I remember the indignities and threats they hurled at me, but what happened to me was not as important as what happened in me. I survived, I was in control of myself, and I became a stronger person.

In my subsequent dealings with employees and the unions, a positive attitude always served me in good stead. We end up having more agreements than differences.

10. Never say never.

Life is full of compromises. Many things are not simply either black or white. Don't make binding statements. Desist from saying, "Take it or leave it."

I think it was Lemuel Bullwar, then of General Electric, who popularized a management negotiating posture of "take-it-or-leave-it." Hence, the term "bullwarism" during CBA negotiations. Today, bullwarism borders on bargaining in bad faith. The essence of negotiation is discussion, give and take, compromise, and arriving at mutually acceptable terms.

Never say "never", or you may have to eat your words, or be forced to be cute and say, "Sorry, I lied."

Truly, peace is a necessary ingredient for success in the workplace. But before we even aspire for peace with others, let us strive to have peace within ourselves. As Benedictus De Spinoza once said, "For peace is not mere absence of war, but is a virtue that springs from force of character."

How can you tell if a business opportunity is worth pursuing?

WORKING WOUNDED

By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: A friend wants to dump most of his life savings into a "business opportunity" that I fear is a scam. I've encouraged him to look up the franchise with the Better Business Bureau. What else should I encourage him to do?

They're Taking Him To The Cleaners

If there's one thing every entrepreneur needs to know it's about the "sleep tax." The New York City police coined the term during "Operation Awake," an effort to reduce grand larceny on the subway. After investigating, they learned that there was nothing grand about the way it happens: most took place when pickpockets made "withdrawals" from sleeping passengers. To educate the public, the police coined a slogan, "doze in your seat and you might end up missing more than your stop."

Well, your friend could be facing a "sleep tax" of his own because "business opportunities" (including franchises) can be notoriously risky. Hopefully, you can provide a wake-up call by asking him the following questions. They're adapted from "Home Businesses You Can Buy" by Paul and Sarah Edwards (Tarcher Putnam, 1997). The book's an MBA-caliber course in starting a business, and I guarantee these professors will never be boring.

- Is the company pressuring you to sign or pay immediately? To paraphrase an old saying, "money remains in the bank accounts of those who wait." Take a night to sleep on the deal, then burn the midnight oil getting the opinions of people you trust.
- Does the company do all its business from a post office box? Even in these virtual times, you want to work with a vendor that maintains an in-house staff. After all, once you sign on the dotted line you want to know there are people available to back you up.
- Are they hesitant to give you a list of their other franchisees? A few states require companies to reveal their franchisees, but most don't. Don't buy if you can't get that list! Once you get it, ask for names of franchisees that are struggling, not just the stars. But remember: their difficulties may be due to their own circumstances rather than to the franchise itself. After all they bought an opportunity, not a guarantee.
- Does the company discourage you from talking to an attorney? My attorney says that anyone who wants you to sign a contract without showing it to a lawyer probably thinks they have a fool for a client. Of course, he says that because he's an attorney, but I believe him anyway.
- Instead of a marketing plan do they just keep repeating, "this will sell itself"? Business opportunities may grow on trees, but customers don't. Demand to see a written plan outlining how customers will be identified, reached and sold.

Use the questions above to conduct your own "Operation Awake" and hopefully you'll help your friend avoid a taxing experience. He may still decide to buy the franchise, but at least you'll both sleep better if he does.

Here are the results of the recent working wounded.com poll: If you were considering buying a business, what would influence your decision the most?

—Gut instinct, 17 percent

—Customer feedback, 31 percent

—Advice from business people, 52 percent

Our winning scam spotting strategy comes from Duke from New York City. "I would have to say the best advice would be, the majority of this is common sense—but in the excitement of a potential windfall, may be overlooked. 1. Make sure you get all information about the venture—names, addresses, references. 2. Don't present money up front with the promise of more information to be presented later. 3. If they are hesitant to give any up front information—don't bother."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.)

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JUDGE RAFAEL T. MENDOZA

of La Union and Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 30, 2001 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **PURIFICACION**; children and children-in-law **WILLIAM** and **Paulette, PETER** and **Marife, Sammy** and **GRACE Pioi, ARNULFO, John** and **CECILIA Agcaoili**; grandchildren **MATTHEW, MELANIE, KEN, KATHLEEN, KRISTINE, KRYSTAL, NICHOLAS,** and **JOHN CARLOS**; sisters and brothers-in-law **AMPARO vda. de Aspiras, Rolando** and **ROSARIO Sambile, Romeo** and **FREDESVINDA Firme,** nephews, nieces, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Quezon City. Cremation and interment will be on Friday, May 4, 2001, after a Requiem Mass at the same church at 9:00 a.m.

CONSOLACION "INDAY" F. IPANAG

Retired Employee, Bureau of Air Transportation (CAA)

20 April 1924 - 30 April 2001

Her bereaved husband, **Dominador Adag Ipanag**
Her children and grandchildren
- **Bobby** (†) and **Marina**
  - **Jhyng, Dong** and **Ily Gamad**
  - **Ning-Ning, Mikel, Em-Em** and **Mica Gavino**
- **Arlene** (†)
- **Alan** and **Vi**
  - **Liza, Rico, Justin** and **Jericho Rojas**
- **Paul**
- **Dean** and **Rose**
  - **Kisses, Hugs, Embrace** and **Touch**
- **Nadine** and **Rod Must**

Her sisters, **Gloria Amten** and **Puring** (†), other relatives and friends deeply mourn her passing and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the family residence, 2415 Osmeña St., Poblacion, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 06 May 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Sts. Peter-Paul Parish, P. Burgos St., Makati City.

REST IN PEACE

RENATA CARLOS MANGUNAY

Born on Oct. 8, 1917 of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija,
Widow of Bernardo Mangunay (Deceased 1987),
Passed away on April 30, 2001.

She is survived by her children; **Dr. Danilo, Celia M. Victorio, Armando, Carlos, Rogelio & Dr. Ramon**; in-laws; **Dr. Nora Ramos, Engr. Josefino Victorio, Consul Cristine Queenie Chan, Dr. Alura Pascual, Dr. Evangeline Alvarez, and Richie de Guzman**; grandchildren; **Kathleen, Jeremy, Joseph, Jessica, Cecilia, Kristine Sherree, Kristine Felisse, Kristine Marisse, Kristine Renee, Joanne Michelle, Jan Michael, Janica Mae, Lhaiza Florette, Patricia, Meg, Marion Doreen, Naomi Edda, Stanley Clark, Van Jovi & Reimond.**

Her brothers, sisters, family and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz in Araneta Avenue.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 6, 2001, 10:00 a.m.
at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina

PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
(PWPA)

regrets to announce the passing away of its Past Chairman
and Past President, and presently its Chairman Emeritus

ENGR. ERNESTO F. SANVICTORES

The body lies in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,
Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

After a requiem Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City on Thursday, May 3, 2001,
cremation will follow at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium.

Interment will follow at the Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
Bulletin Street, West Triangle, Quezon City.

We request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"A little while, and ye shall not see me; and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the father."

JUDGE & BRO. CARLOS CAREAGA OFILADA

(of Nilad Lodge No. 12 Grand Lodge of the Philippines)

Returned to the house of the Lord after receiving the last sacrament
on April 30, 2001 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Attorney Irene Diaz Ofilada**; children **Rafael, Norman, Raymund & Ma. Carla**; children-in-law; **Eufrocina & Jocelyn**, grandchildren; **Carlos Victor, Francesca Mitchel, Leandro Miguel & Justin Andrew**; brothers & sisters, brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces request the pious reader to say a prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz Memorial Chapel A-1,
Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 5, 2001 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass
at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"So lovingly remembered;
so dearly missed."

In Loving Memory

on the *16th Death Anniversary* of our Beloved

ANTONIA CASTILLO LIMCHOC

Holy Masses will be offered on May 2, 2001 at the following Churches:

St. Anthony de Padua Parish *Singalong, Manila*	5:30 AM
Paco Catholic Church *Paco, Manila*	5:45 AM
Our Lady of Remedios Church *Malate, Manila*	6:00 AM
San Isidro Parish *Pasay City*	6:00 AM
St. John Bosco Chapel *Makati City*	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Pilar Parish *Pilar Village, Las Piñas City*	7:30 AM
St. Jerome Emiliani Parish *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City*	12:15 PM
Parish Church of the Resurrection *BF Homes, Parañaque*	6:30 PM
Parish of St. James the Great *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:30 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish *BF Homes, Parañaque*	7:00 PM
Our Lady of Fatima Parish *Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City*	7:30 PM

Her husband Cris; children and grandchildren request relatives, friends and pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

LEONILA G. GABRIEL

Peacefully joined our Creator
on April 30, 2001

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City will be announced later.

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Our Beloved Mama

Consuelito 'Nene' Surtida y Alarcon

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 28, 2001
at the age of 75.

Her loving children **RED** (†) and **MARLYN, CHERYL** and **ROBERT, SASA** and **CESAR, EDAN** and **LYNETTE, RYAN**; grandchildren **BLU** and **MICHELLE, CARLO, PAOLO DHYDI** and **WILLY, BUFFY, MIRZI, KIM, JET, JANEE, JUDDI**; great grandchildren **TRISTAN, KRISHNA, SHAWN**; sister **MELBA** and nephew **JESTONI** and **LIZETTE.**

Her remains lie in state at the OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP Parish, Jersey Rd., Project 8, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 3, 2001 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

TERESITA C. TIGNO

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 29, 2001
at the age of 66.

Her bereaved sisters **Soledad, Aurora** and **Angelina;** brothers **Rolando** and **Felix;** sisters-in-law **Teresa** and **Alice;** brother-in-law **Philip;** nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, May 3, 2001 at La Loma Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ELISA PALISOK vda. LONTOK

of Quiapo, Manila/ Baliuag, Bulacan

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 30, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her only son **Atty. Edward P. Lontok** and wife **Eugenia G. Lontok;** grandchildren **Jerome, Josine, Jerold** and **Joanne** request the readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Solace I Room, Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 5, 2001 at the Municipal Cemetery of Baliuag, Bulacan after 1:30 p.m. Mass, at Sto. Cristo Chapel.

> **"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."**
>
> **2 Corinthians 5:4-5**

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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SALVADOR C. PANOTES

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 30, 2001 at the age of 87.

His bereaved children **Evelyn** and **Rolando Padilla, Ramon** and **Olympia, Raul** and **Anita;** grandchildren, brothers and sisters request the pious readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

MELENCIO M. GUEVARA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 30, 2001 at the age of 81.

His bereaved children **Ding** and **Baby, Jojo, Nenette** and **Romy Fernandez, Choy** and **Tiset, Ricky** and **Vivian;** grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on May 5, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat.

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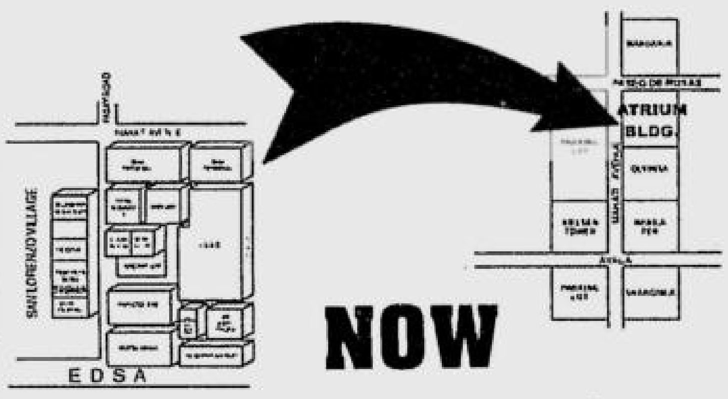

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Hot spots

Q. What's the hottest place on earth?

A. The hottest shade temperature ever recorded was at Al'Aziziyah, Libya on September 13, 1922, when the mercury hit 57.77°C (136°F). On an annual mean basis, the hottest place is Dallol, Ethiopia, where the average temperature was 34.44°C (94°F) over a six-year period from 1960 to 1966. On the other hand, the world's driest place is the Pacific coast of Chile between Arica and Antofagasta, where the annual mean rainfall is less than 0.004 inch. In comparison, it virtually never rains in Chile's Atacama Desert, although several times a century a squall may strike a small area of it.

Take a Tip. When you see someone suffering from heat exhaustion, have him sit or lie down in a cool spot immediately. Loosen his cloting and remove extra layers. Fan his skin. If he's alert, get him to drink up to a quart of water; if he's groggy, don't force fluids - you could cause choking.

Try a Trick. Bet someone that you can lift an ice cube with a thread. The Setup: Curl the end of a piece of thread on an ice cube. Sprinkle generously with salt. Wait about a minute. Now lift the cube. The string is frozen to the cube and provides a handy handle. The Fix: Salt lowers the temperature at which ice freezes. The ice near the salt melts, and the strong is soon surrounded by water. The melted ice refreezes because it is surrounded by material at a lower temperature, which removes heat from the water The thread is now frozen to the cube. This a short-time operation, though. If you wait too long, the entire cube will melt and you will have only one wet thread.

WORD WATCH

Kubo *(as in bahay kubo)* from the Spanish *cubo,* "cube."

PDI - - May 2, 2001

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting contractors who have completed similar contracts (at least 50% of the similar contract cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to Pre-Qualify & Bid for the contract listed below:

	Bid Package	Scope of works	Est. Project Cost
1.	Construction of Ugong Norte Phase I (3 Five-Storey Bldgs.) MRH Project, Bo. Ugong, Libis Murphy, Q.C.	Building Construction	P56.0M

	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
1.	AA	Large A for Buildings

A. Pre-C forms, Bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of the following:
1.) Letter of Intent; 2.) PCA/AIC License with Official Receipt; 3.) Certificate of Completion/ Acceptance & Contract Agreement of similar project; and 4.) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per contract shall be received only from authorized representative.
C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's check.
D. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on May 16, 2001. All other subsequent activities will be announced through a Bid Bulletin.
E. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager

(PDI – May 2, 4 & 7, 2001)

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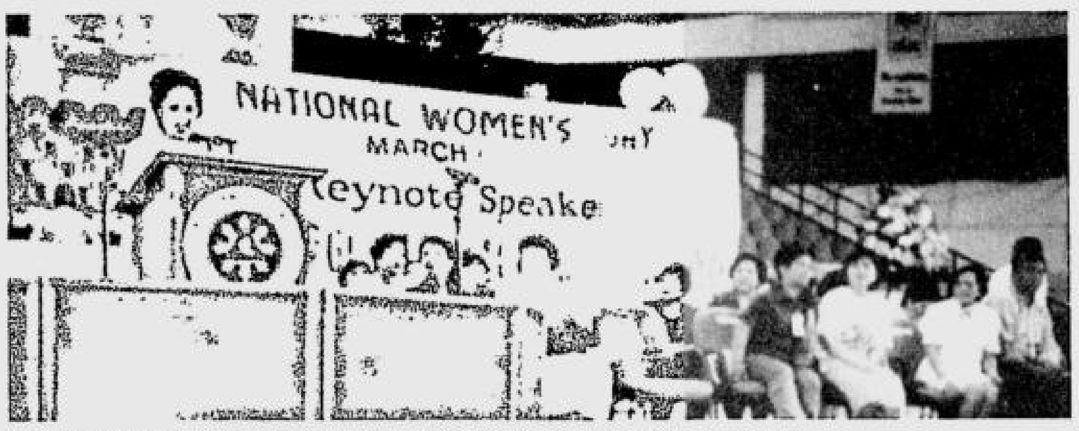
PALAWAN, a paradise blessed with a tropical climate all year round. Nestled southwest of the Philippine archipelago with over 1,000 islets. It is well known for its crystal clear blue waters, white sand beaches and colorful marine life – a haven for divers and a swimmer's fantasy.

It will only take 55 minutes by plane to reach Puerto Princesa City, the capital of Palawan. It is also the chief seaport and center of trade and commerce of Palawan. Puerto Princesa is dubbed as the cleanest and greenest city in the country. One of the few hotels that offer first class accommodation and with friendly service is The Legend Hotel-Palawan located at Malvar Street—five minutes away from the airport.

Nature trippers will surely love the tourist destinations Palawan offers. The Honda Bay Islands, for instance, can be reached in only 20 minutes. One can witness the beautiful Snake Island, Cowrie, Starfish, Meara Marina, Loli and Pandan islands. Many of the islands have shallow reefs and good beaches. Breathtaking Honda Bay is perfect for island hopping, swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving. Thousands of bats in Bat Island, meanwhile, take shelter within the mangroves during the day and fly out at night in search for food.

Palawan offers below-ground thrills as well. An underground river is accessible by land through a two-and-a-half-hour rough and winding road with a scenic country view. The Underground River can be considered Palawan's most famous spot because of its beautiful lagoon and crystal clear waters teeming with colorful fish. One enters a mystical environment exploring the pitch-dark interiors of the cavern deep within the limestone and marble peaks of Mt. Saint Paul, where the underground river runs through. Huge stalactites merge with the water's surface and reflect prisms of colors from yellow to reddish brown.

Experience paradise with a multitude of flora and fauna only in Palawan. With daily flights via Air Philippines, a three-day two-night package will cost only P6,999 net per person inclusive of airfare, accommodation and more. For inquiries or reservations, call 633-1501.



DOH SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Women's Health and Development Program of the Department of Health recently marked a milestone in its crusade for women's well-being when it joined the International Women's Day opening rights held at National Sports Arena, Pasig City. Ushering in a month-long commemoration of women's rights and privileges last March, the event had the theme 'Kababaihan: Kabalikat sa Kapayapaan at Kaunlaran.' Aside from the DOH, other cause-oriented groups both government and non-government came to support the female sector of society. Shown above is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the opening ceremony.

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Daktronics was among the major sponsors of Trans Sport Show 2001, the country's premier car show held April 21-29 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. Showcased by D.B. Sales Services Inc. was the Daktronics Galaxy Indoor Tri-Color LED Matrix Displays. Shown above is Judith Acenas (second from right), sales and marketing manager of Trans Sport Show organizer Trade Show International, Inc., with executives of D.B. International Sales and Services Inc. (from left) Sabas B. Bergantinos, VP-corporate affairs; Bess P. Guido, product sales manager; William T. Guido, president and CEO; and Nilo T. Cruz, sales engineer.

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SUCCESSFUL WORLDBEX 2001

Hundreds of construction practitioners from all over the country recently trooped to the World Trade Center Manila to witness the biggest construction trade show in Asia—the sixth Philippine World Building and Construction Exposition (Worldbex 2001). Cutting the ceremonial ribbon is Trade and Industry Secretary Mar A. Roxas, who represented President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the event. With the secretary is Worldbex founding president Joseph Ang and Pasay City Mayor Peewee Trinidad (fourth and fifth from left). Also in photo are Levi Ang (middle), wife of the Worldbex president, and Thess Roque (extreme left), Naia Customs deputy collector. Worldbex 2001 was participated in by more than 500 exhibitors from 22 countries, including the United States, China, Australia, United Kingdom and Japan.

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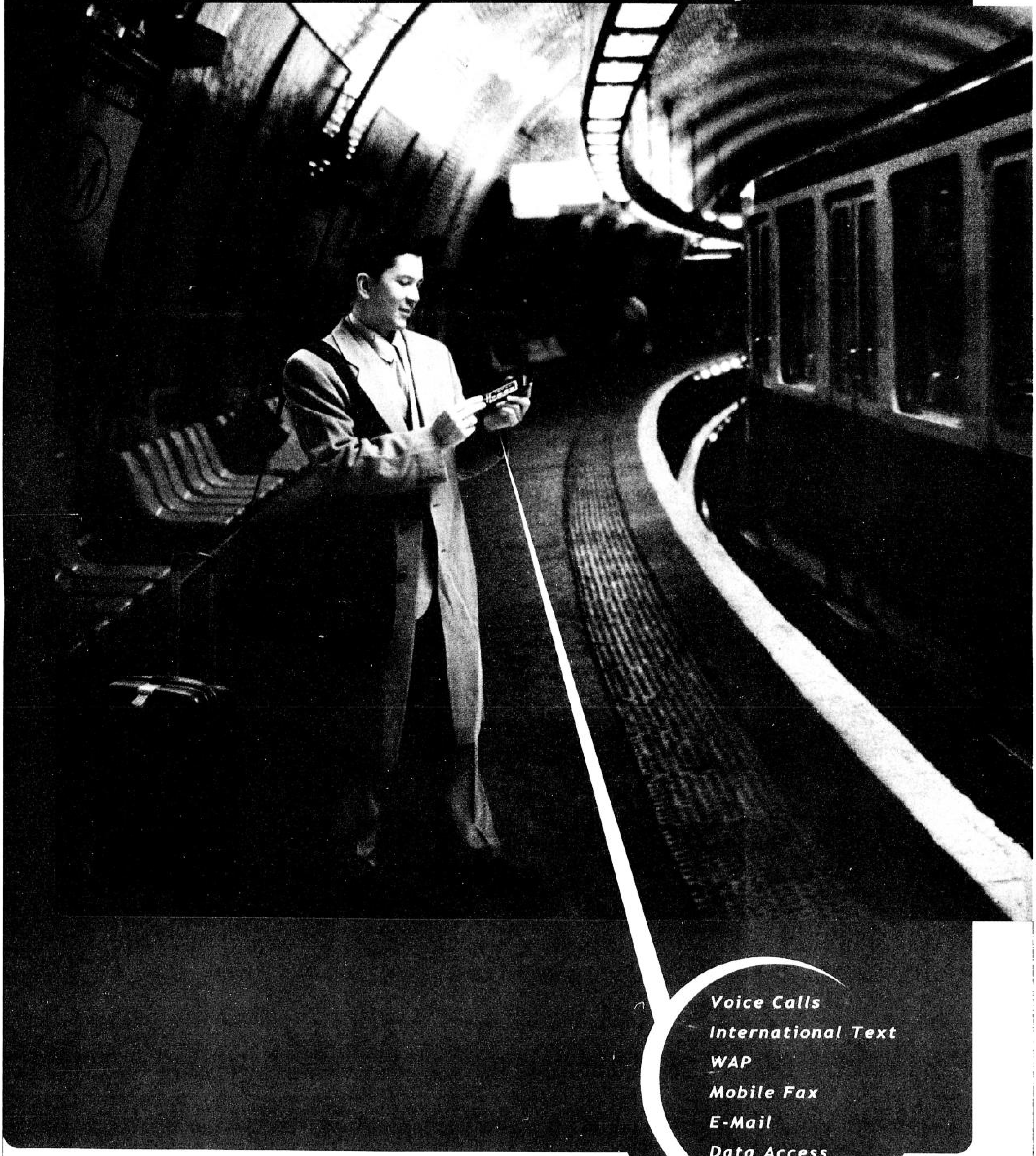

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ■ PAM PASTOR, Chief of Correspondents

Do you want to become a 2bU! correspondent? Turn to page C3

to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!

2bU! goes to Boracay

For those who have not been to the coolest beach destination this side of summer, we have stories of frolicking and partying for you to whet your appetite. For those who have been there, join in as we rediscover Boracay the Smart-MTV way

A Bora bragbook

WITH THE EXCEPTION of Jason, all of us who went to Boracay were certified Boracay vestal virgins. My knowledge on the world-famous destination was limited to its white sands and the propensity of people, especially foreigners, for going topless.

Well, I did not see any one strutting around the seashore buck-naked (thank heaven for that…I think). Nor did I witness or take part in any activity that would surely offend the sensibilities of the 2bU! gang especially, yours truly (as if!).

But the lavish praises my friends bestowed on Boracay was very well deserved, if not a bit understated.

A glimpse of the white sandy shores of Boracay erased all my (unwarranted) fears of deep waters. I let go of my tight grip on the wooden handle of the motorized boat that we took from Caticlan. My eyes veered away from the life vests as I started to marvel at the azure hues of the water.

Although press junkets are often characterized as "itinerary-friendly," our trip to Boracay was a real vacation. The only schedule we had to strictly follow was where and what time we were going to eat (har har!).

Even though we went as a group, I had a lot of time for solitude as I (tried) to soak up as much sun as I could. I could not come along with Pam and the rest of the crew for the jet-ski and the banana boat ride so I was pretty much left alone to swim and sunbathe. Except for a nosy male foreigner who offered to put some tanning oil on my back (I said no, of course. If he looked like Brad Pitt, it would have been a different story), I was able to enjoy my private moments.

The beauty of Boracay is that while visually impressive and picturesque, it is not assaulting to the senses. There is a sense of symmetry from the beautiful waves that quietly approach the shores, to the white sands that seem to serve as canvass for the hues of the water, to the bancas that moved around the waters, to the sky with nary a trace of clouds, to the beachcombers who aimlessly walked around. Even the green seaweeds (which by the way, prompted Tammy to ask if they were itchy) seemed to complement the whole picture.

Just absorbing the atmosphere automatically obliterates all the worries, all the stress and perhaps some of the inhibitions.

Laidback is the word to describe the atmosphere and even the people. It is no wonder then that a lot of people wish to live or settle down near the lovely shores of Boracay.

The trip to Boracay was also a period of discovery for us. We are all *makalat* (our room was a virtual disaster zone). Maui requires a soft mattress to be able to get a decent sleep, Tammy has glorious hair (especially when it's down), Happy is truly a beauty even without the help of Benetint and High Beam, Pam is really "blessed" (wink!), Tim has legs worthy of envy, and that in the face of stressful situations, Jason still manages to hold on to his wits. Me? I guess Pam knows by now that despite the brave exterior, I am a scaredy-cat deep inside. She can attest to how I practically clawed her arms as I held on to her on the boat ride going back to Caticlan.

Needless to say, we all truly enjoyed the trip. Okay, so maybe we were not able to go skinny-dipping but then there's another time for that (although I must say I am not awaiting that event with bated breath). *Jules Alcantara*

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A Bora bragbook

BORACAY or the beach was never in my where-to-go list. I hate swimming, the sun and the sand. I would just stay in the hotel and do a food review, I told Pam when my dad allowed me to go. I cut my stay in Zamboanga so I can spend time with the other correspondents in Boracay, of all places.

Travelling to "Borah" was such a hassle, but after the three-hour plane-bus-boat ride, I felt relieved when I saw the famous scenery that launched a thousand postcards. Just looking at the clear water and white sand was breathtaking. Tim kept telling us that we would forget everything once our toes touched the powder-like sand and boy, did it feel good.

The sun didn't bother me much. I would just look at the water and I would feel relaxed. I was so relaxed that I was able to sleep under the sun, finish one side of the audio version of "The Alchemist" and finish level two of "Return of the Jedi" in my game boy and for once texting was dragging for me.

We always started the day at 10 a.m. since there were six of us sharing one bathroom and we would end the day at 3 a.m. because we would walk miles from our place at Pearl of the Pacific to D'Mall and hang out in the eateries or the sand where we would just talk and laugh all night.

I'll never forget the time that Pam, Jason, Tim and I were lying on the sand at 3 a.m. The stars were so bright and it was so magical that we were like kids getting overexcited with a Happy Meal. The sand was so cool that I began falling asleep. Then my mind went over thinking my kindergarten days up to the present. I only do that when I'm relaxed.

I'll never forget the first time the gang was outside room 107, our hotel room, since the previous room where Pam, Jason and I stayed was on top of the hill. Whenever we went down to eat it was like we were going to tribal council and the other room where Maui, Happy and Jules were supposed to stay was not that great. We were so happy that the room had TV and it was near the beach that we had picture-taking as if it was the 8th wonder of the world.

I'll never forget the first time the whole group consisting of the 2bU! gang with Marco from Young Star and Daddy Mon, Ruth and Nic from Smart had dinner. At first I was like "Oh, dinner with someone from Young Star and a bunch of PR people," but in the end we were just like kids talking about the silliest things like our long names and the losers in the business. The rest of the trip with the group was a blast.

I'll never forget the time I first went jet-skiing when I was riding with Jason and I was thrown out of the jet ski. As I emerged from the water, I kept on yelling "I'm fine! I'm fine! I'm swimming alright!" I thought this was all planned since the whole gang was forcing me to swim. I was surprised that I still had my precious Regatta flip-flops on but I lost my sister's cheap Gucci sunglasses.

The trip was so memorable and I can go on about the things that I enjoyed: from fruit shakes to the never-ending discussions about life and a platypus. I learned that you can still enjoy Boracay without swimming, the flings, the booze or the drugs. As long as your friends are with you, you can have the time of your life.

Tammy David

IT was like a first kiss. My toes touched the white sand of Boracay with the hesitance of uneducated lips.

Unsure yet relishing every sensation. Hot and cold at the same time. That moment was the beginning of an unforgettable experience.

When I was still in Manila, I had visions of nights spent on the sand, listening to waves crashing while I wrote my neglected fiction.

Alas, this remained an illusion. Our stay in Boracay was hectic. Really hectic, to say the least.

Now, I ask myself, what is Boracay for me? Is it still that empty picture that used to gaze up at me from postcards in bookstores? Is it the strip of white sand that has become too "commercialized," as many people are complaining? Is it the endless parties? Is it the powdery sand and clear water that even Hollywood stars travel thousands of miles for?

No.

Boracay for me is lying on the sand under a blanket of stars with Tammy, Jason and Tim at 3 a.m. It is neglecting my cell phone and realizing that I could actually live without text-messaging. It is kicking myself for my stupid obsession for shoes when I could actually live in this island without a single pair. It is forgetting my low tolerance for spicy food and savoring every bite of our meal at True Food. It is automatically ordering banana-mango shakes in every single restaurant and sipping them while my feet are buried in the cool sand. It is the P80 gourmet pizza that you can enjoy while watching the sunset. It is walking around drenched, waiting for the sun and the wind to dry me up. It is getting really, really burned, as red as a lobster, and not really caring at all. It is the endless laughter. It is the adrenaline rush and the nonstop flow of activities. It is looking up at the sky at night and actually seeing stars. It is finding precious hoop earrings for a very low price. It is spending long minutes in an art museum that is posing as a store. It is digging "2bU!" in the sand. It is swimming while fish fly in front of you. It is getting bitten by nasty mosquitoes but having too much fun to really notice. It is this place that seems to never sleep. It is twisting your foot while walking in the sand. It is finding sand in your underwear and not shrieking about it. It is taking a bath with saltwater coming out of the shower. It is petting friendly dogs that are wandering on the beach. It is eating hotdogs and barbecue on the sand after dancing at 4 a.m. It is a discovery—the humbling experience of an accident that made me realize I am human, as fragile as everyone else. It is letting go of all insecurities. It is liberation. It is the freedom of wearing whatever you want. It is the interesting characters that play so many roles, with the beach as their backdrop. It is missing the people I love and wishing they were with me to cherish every view, every taste, every sound, every smell. It is a sensory overload. It is not caring about how many rolls of film you've used up—just as long as you capture the moment. It is forgetting to give out my calling card. It is making connections—not the business but the human kind. It is sharing a room with five other people, a bed with three others and still loving the whole experience. It is loving my colleagues as I would love friends, and loving these friends as if they were my siblings.

That was my Boracay experience.

Pam Pastor

BEACHSIDE BOO-BOOS

GIVE us a break! We spent almost five days together. Naturally, a few embarrassing moments were bound to happen. Okay, not just a few but a handful. So what? We had a good laugh. Maybe you can laugh with us.

FLY HIGH

Noontime and nothing to do, Tammy, Jason and Pam settled back to watch a noontime show beauty pageant. Came the Question-and-Answer portion.

Host: *Kung may* magic carpet *ka, sino ang isasama mo at saan kayo pupunta?*

Contestant (with conviction): *Ang* best friend *ko. Pupunta kami sa napakagandang tanawin tulad ng* garden.

Though the three spent looong minutes rolling on the floor, shrieking with laughter, that wasn't enough. They are still laughing to this day.

BOUNCE

"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" was playing on the telly. Jason jumped up (in his 6-ft glory), grabbed one of the sheets and started bouncing on the hotel bed, reenacting the scene from "Stepmom" while Tammy and Pam watched on. A few lines later, Jason hit his head on the ceiling and fell on the bed groaning. They all laughed for another good five minutes, with Jason still nursing his head.

DINNER AT HEY JUDE

Maui touched her head and said, "Dude, I have something on my hair."

Pam replied, with a dead serious look on her face: "Oh my god, you have a worm on your hair."

Maui, looking panicky, asked Jules to accompany her to the bathroom.

"I was only kidding," Pam shouted after them.

Turned out Maui did have something on her hair. Bird poop.

MTV MONGOLIAN DINNER

Pam stood up to get a bottle of mineral water from the bar. Her sarong fell off and she flashed everyone.

WEEDS ARE NOT SCARY

Tammy announced loudly, "*Takot ako sa* seaweed." Everyone else looked at her, looking confused. Oh. She meant jellyfish.

BURY HIS WOUNDED PRIDE

Jason dug two holes in the sand. Pam watched as he buried himself up to the elbows. Jason realized he was stuck and asked for help. Pam laughed, thinking it was a joke. Jason started screaming. Pam asked him if he was serious. He started cursing, getting a bit more hysterical. He finally freed himself from his sand trap and ended with a sheepish look on his face.

FIRST NIGHT AT HEY JUDE

Things got heated up. Or rather, one man got heated up. He stood up, pounded his chest and shouted, "You want a piece of me? You want a piece of me, huh, mother f——r?!" The man was promptly ignored.

WHO LET THE DOG OUT

Our resident eventologist drank a little too much and started dancing with a dog. We mean that literally.

LOST AND FOUND

While the others were already in their rooms resting, Nick, Pam, Jason, Sir Mon and Marco stayed out one night and had too much fun. They had so much fun that they got lost going back to the hotel. They walked way past Pearl of the Pacific and started laughing when they realized they were lost, making it even harder for them to find their way back.

"I have a map here," Pam gasped, sitting down to search for it in her bag. It wasn't there—and they started laughing again. They finally got home minutes later—exhausted from all the walking and laughing.

Caveat: Too much laughter may be dangerous to your health. One correspondent is now 2bU!'s resident fartmeister.

WIN A SMART MONEY SIM-PACK!

AS weird as it sounds, the platypus played a very important role in our trip. Try to find our Boracay mascot in this week's 2bU! pages and if you do, e-mail us (ls_2bU@inquirer.com.ph) at once. Please don't forget your name, contact numbers and home address. You might just win a SIM-pack from Smart.

THE BORACAY AWARDS

- **2bU!'s favorite "Daddy":** Mon Isberto
- **Martyr award:** Marco Lobregat (for enduring 2bU!'s relentless teasing and bullying)
- **"Look, Ma, we shopped at the same store" award:** VJ Sara Meir and Maui Reyes
- **We wish he was our physics teacher:** Jonjon Rufino
- **Went to Boracay but hardly swam award:** Ruth Tadeo and Nick Wilwayco
- **"The beach is for swimming NOT flying!" award:** Pam Pastor
- **Chief party-rouser of Boracay:** Tim Yap
- **"I'm ready for the camera" award:** Jason Doplito
- **"Three types of tanning oil does not equal a good tan" award:** Jules Alcantara
- **Most creative with a sarong:** Happy David
- **"No swim-no tan (what's the point?)" award:** Tammy David
- **Best flirt:** Tim with the dogs
- ***Talipapa* champion shoppers:** Pam and Ruth
- **Most glorious Boracay glow:** Ruth and Happy
- **Overpacked award:** Jules Alcantara
- **Underpacked award ("Hey, I need to make *laba* my undies!"):** Tammy
- **Certified banana-mango addict:** Pam Pastor
- **Most obsessed with swimming:** Mon
- **Worst fear awards:** Tammy (seaweed) and Pam (needles) *"Ayoko ng injection! Ayaw! Ayaw!,"* bawling like a 2-year-old)
- **Least sleep award:** Maui (8 hours)
- **Worst streak of luck:** Jason
- **Official alarm clock:** Maui

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Lifestyle Teen Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

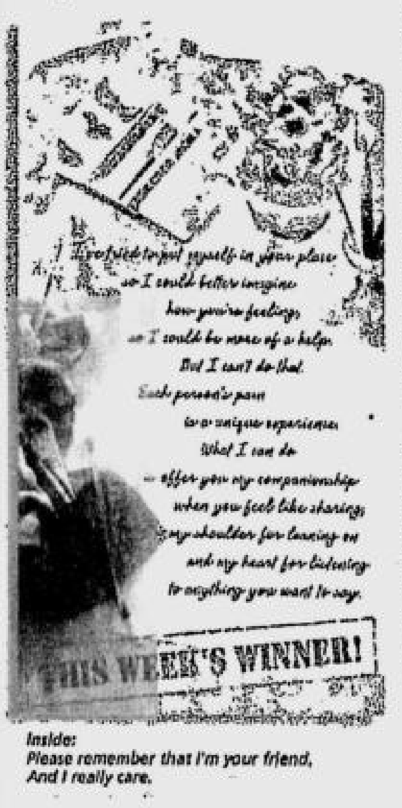
The Between You and Me "Cardspeak" Contest!

My best friend, Marie Fe, gave me this **Between You and Me** card during my 16th birthday. I was not expecting anything from her at that time because we just had a misunderstanding. I thought she didn't care about my problems. I thought I was alone out there and nobody was listening. But this card chased all the negative thoughts away from my head. It also ironed out our differences.

I am 19 years old now and I still have each and every Hallmark greeting card Marie Fe has given me. College life didn't change a thing in our friendship. We still love going to bookstores and straying to the greeting cards section. We read **Between You and Me** cards together because we think they have cool designs and romantic and intense messages. And there is always a perfect occasion to give and receive one. In fact, we even have a collection!

I know we'll have wrinkles and grandchildren someday. Some memories will fade from our minds and hide the youthful secrets of the heart. But we are lucky because some of those memories will be kept in every **Between You and Me** card we have sent each other. We will read them to our grandchildren and then the story of a beautiful friendship will be told!

- Lucille D. Vergara
18-A M. de Leon St.,
Pansol, Balara, Q.C.


I've wished to put myself in your place
so I could better imagine
how you're feeling,
so I could be more of a help.
But I can't do that.
Each person's pain
is a unique experience.
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is offer you my companionship
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Congrats, Lucille!
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THE LAST time I've been to the beach—well, I don't even remember the last time I've been to the beach. That's because my parents aren't exactly big fans of the beach. So to me, just to be near a beach was nirvana. Maybe not exactly nirvana, but something extremely different. And to be spoiled enough to not only be able to see a beach but to see Boracay, damn, I probably wouldn't settle for any other beach again, ever.

It was also my first time to travel without my parents…not that I was going to travel with complete strangers, since three of the 2bU! correspondents were already in Boracay, and two more were on their way. And I have no problem with airplanes—the ones that don't crash, anyway. The trip to the island wasn't that boring, considering I didn't have a discman with me (I did not forget to bring a discman…I merely did not have a functioning discman). Ruth and Mon from Smart were with me, as well as YS writer Marco Lobregat. It was pretty cool since I've seen Marco a bunch of times before the trip (not to mention he's pretty easy on the eyes).

Fast-forward to the island—the ocean's beautiful. Looking out the car window during our Aklan drive, I already wanted to jump into the ocean (Sir Mon actually said that…and believe me, he takes that literally). I spent the first day gawking over the ocean and switching hotel rooms and hotels with the other 2bU! correspondents and the people from Smart. Finally, after squishing us six correspondents into one room that Sir Mon gave up for us, our Boracay escapades were about to begin. And it's a very good thing we got our room on the first floor and not have to hike up a darn mountain to get to our rooms (room 107. How ironic to have a room with the same number as my favorite radio station).

If there's one thing I didn't want to do in Boracay, it would have been to sleep. I had a total of eight hours of sleep, and if I could, I wouldn't have slept at all. The minute you wake up there's something to do, somewhere to eat, and at night, some place to party. It's a wonder how one stretch of restaurants, bars, shops and resorts could keep a person so busy. The banana boat ride, the island-hopping (well okay, it was only one island, but still), the snorkeling—where I almost drowned, but hey, I went snorkeling in Boracay, dammit, how cool is that?!

The best activity would probably be jet-skiing. I'm not really a daredevil, and I have to admit, I was reluctant when I saw the banana boat pull up the shore (okay I'm chicken, so there!). But after Pam repeatedly said it was cool and it was fun, I finally drove that baby over the waves. And I have to say, that was the first thing I missed when I stepped off the airport. It was like controlling your own roller coaster, pushing up to speed and riding off waves as salt water splashes on your body and the wind whips at your face. Of course, let's not forget moments like Pam and Tammy falling into the water after colliding jet skis.

Eating was also a priority. Ruth and Mon practically shoved all the good food and shakes into our mouths at every activity pit stop. And who are we to say no? We taste-tested every restaurant that served calamares, downed more than a dozen fruit shakes and marveled over all the delectable seafood on every menu. At night, different bars offered different drinks, from what Jules calls "the kiddy drinks" to hardcore mixes, some exotic and only found on the island.

The beach alone was already amazing. The algae didn't bother us that much…at night it was low-tide, and we'd walk along the shore and check out the marks the waves left on the sand. Then there were the sunset, the sunrise (which I unfortunately never stayed up for or woke up for to see), and just the sun, period. Me, the person who proclaims daily that I hate the sun, finally gave in to what man used to worship as a god and got a pretty good tan in return. The sand was powder-fine, and unfortunately for my mom, who wanted me to pick shells for her, was shell-free. You could run on it without sandals and not worry about getting cut by nasty crustacean leftovers. And the water, the water…it was so clear you could see the bottom.

So okay, there might have been some downside. The hotel faucets and showers spewed out salt water, hence the many stocks of spring water bottles in our room. And cramming six people in a room—five girls, for crying out loud—pretty much meant bathroom mayhem. I won't even start with trying to wake them all up…mornings consisted of "alphabetical order to go to the bathroom," and we never showed up on time for breakfast *or* dinner. And of course, there was my Mongolian buffet mix-it-yourself dinner that never came, and my losing the ring my mom gave me during a foam party (thanks to Marco). But overall, I think everything else would make up for that. I might have come home with very badly faded and damaged hair, a ringless finger and my chubby stomach forever immortalized in pictures because of my tankini…but the experience of just being in Boracay…a place that makes people more confident about who they are…was worth it. Where else can you find a beach where wearing a bikini isn't scandalous, or show up at a party wearing just jeans and a shirt?

Bottom line is, my Boracay experience was, well, nirvana. Now Buddha would be proud.

Maui V. Reyes

I AM owning up to the title, 2bU!'s Boracay Black Sheep. Although the trip hasn't been bad for me (I didn't lose anything, I wasn't in any accident, my interviews pushed through), it has been bad for my fellow correspondents. And the fact that I am the reason for that makes me feel as bad as they are, or even worse. It's never nice to have that burden of guilt hounding you on the trip back home. Again, I'm sorry.

So what is it about Boracay aside from the sun, sand, sea and a string of unfortunate self-made incidents? The answer exactly. Boracay, or any other vacation spot for that matter, is always beyond the sun, sand and the sea. It's with the people you go there and have fun with. It's the experience with them that counts most.

I was there less than a year ago with no friends. I made acquaintances yes, but nothing beyond that. It was then that I enjoyed what the tourist-y Boracay had to offer. The powdery sand, the bars that lined up the shore, the colorful corals and the sound of the waves at night. But going back there was a very different experience, to the point that even the Boracay I knew changed completely. I didn't get teary-eyed and awed as I did the first time I saw the island from up above. I didn't smile to myself the moment I set foot on the island as I did the first time. I didn't pray to God asking that He take me back there as I did during my first trip. And then it dawned on me: I was awed, smiling, praying for different reasons.

I was awed at the fact that my closest friends were all with me for a four-day vacation.

I smiled at the fact that I got to know them *very* well. From their morning rituals to toilet habits.

I prayed for us especially after how things went wrong on our last day.

Suddenly, it just wasn't about Boracay anymore, just like this essay.

Boracay is just the medium.

Jason Doplito

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'Talipapa'—the other tourist destination in Boracay

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID
2bU! Correspondent

AND you thought Boracay was only a place for swimming and gulping down gallons of fruit shakes. Wait till you take a "trike" ride to the central market located in the heart of the island. The *talipapa*, Boracay's answer to Baguio's *ukay-ukay* and Zamboanga's barter trade, has everything you need to complete your Boracay experience.

Like Greenhills, it offers a lot of bargains although a little cramped. You have to really go inside and search to find the best stuff. I don't think you can leave Boracay without visiting the *talipapa* unless you settle for bottled sand or zip locks as *pasalubong* for your loved ones.

Boracay fashion

Days before I left for Boracay, I turned Manila and Zamboanga upside down looking for a cheap, nice-looking sarong price. I settled for a plain black one with a not-so-reasonable price—anything to hide my chunky sick-looking legs.

When I got to the *talipapa*, I almost banged my head on the tricycle. There were loads of sarongs and other Boracay fashion items like swimsuits, shirts, shorts (Are you sure *hindi ito* Quiksilver?) shades and more sarongs! So if you misplaced your suitcase or your clothes accidentally got wet on your way there, you know where to go for replacement.

Beads, bags and more beads

Wondering where your favorite rap-rock artist got his necklace? The white string of ethnic beads that has become a must-have is about five bucks cheaper in the *talipapa* than in Greenhills and you also have more varieties to choose from.

You might find bags in the ever-updated *tiangges* and bazaars, but if you want to save and be a month ahead in style, then you really should visit the *talipapa*. There are also lots of bags to choose from in most of the stores.

Food

If you're tired of the local cuisine, there are mini groceries selling snack items and bottled water to wash your face with if salt water irritates your skin. No bargain for these items, of course, but you can haggle over the fresh fish.

You can also get popular Filipino delicacies like *yema*, mango tart, *polvoron*, *bagoong/ ginamos*, *barquillos* and the best-selling *piyaya*. These are always the most welcome *pasalubong* so try not to eat them before you get home. They cost from P45 to P500.

Bora for the home

For *pasalubong* that is not perishable or something the recipient can use or display all year round, home items are the thing. Colorful chimes, picture frames and woodcarvings as paperweights or for display are also bestsellers in the *talipapa*. The more expensive ones are very nice, even exquisite. The only problem is, some of the things are so fragile you would need an extra hand to carry them.

Tattoos

Want a souvenir that will last longer than a sunburn or the scar you got from the jet-ski? There are two tattoo places in the *talipapa* and the more popular one according to a local is Noel's studio.

Noel Morales, the guy with the needle, is a member of the Professional Tattoo Artists Association of the Philippines (PTAAP). He has been practicing the art for 15 years and has made about a thousand tattoos. Definitely a pro, his customers include the likes of Philippine Cinema's bad boy, Robin Padilla, and tourists from as far as Sweden.

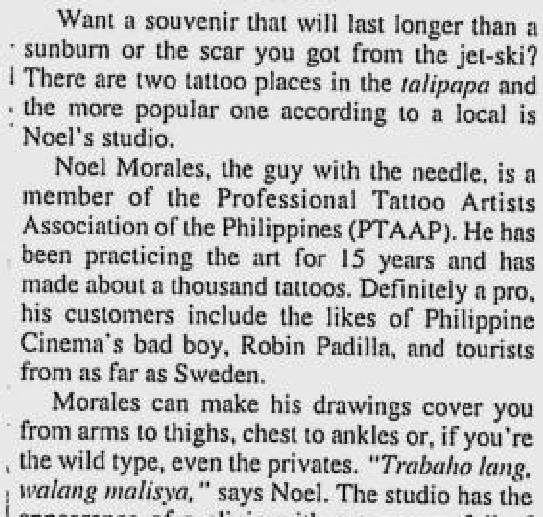
Morales can make his drawings cover you from arms to thighs, chest to ankles or, if you're the wild type, even the privates. *"Trabaho lang, walang malisya,"* says Noel. The studio has the appearance of a clinic with one corner full of needles, rubbing alcohol and other stuff aimed at preventing infection or diseases.

The cheapest tattoo cost P1,500 and the most expensive he's done—a full back—cost about $1,500. He also did a lot of last year's fad, henna tattoo, for people whose parents back home might not be fans of body art. Anybody can just walk in and have a tattoo done instantly at Morales' fully air-conditioned place, or you can contact Noel for an appointment at (063) 288-5163.

If you've overshot your Boracay budget because of hotel accommodations, food and 15-minute jet-ski rides but you still want to buy *pasalubong*, the solution to your problem is just a tricycle ride away

BORACAY fashion

A PIECE of Bora in your living room



TATTOO master Noel with Christian from Sweden

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Find your perfect swimwear in Boracay

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JULES ALCANTARA

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TIM amidst Boracay's swimwear paradise

TWO nights before we left for Boracay, Maui, our resident music fanatic, texted me.

"Hey! Hw many suits r u bringing 2 Bora?" she asked. My reply—"4 two-pc Mau. Y?"—for some reason pushed Maui's panic button. It sent her and her mom on a shopping frenzy.

Our text exchanges after that revolved around the most important question (especially for girls) of the summer. Where to find the most happening, the most fashionable, the sexiest—that will at the same time hide all sorts of flaws both real and imagined—and the most affordable vavavoom two-piece suit to wear for a romp at the beach.

The "itsy-bitsy teeny weenie yellow polka dot bikini" is no longer such a novelty since Filipino women, both young and old, have shed most of their inhibitions about their bodies. It is no longer unusual to see long queues of women buying bathing suits, especially a two-piece ensemble. Shops that carry swimwear like Nothing But Water, Rustan's, Cinderella and Speedo are definite pre-beach destinations.

You simply can't go to the beach and not bring swimwear, right?

Hmmm... maybe. Maybe not.

When the people from Smart asked us where we wanted to go, *talipapa* was the unanimous answer. And since they pretty much let us do what we wanted to do (the only schedule we had to strictly follow was mealtime) we took a bumpy tricycle ride to the famous Boracay market.

Unassuming little store

We chanced upon the Paulo Collection, a must for those who want to buy *pasalubong*. What we wanted to check out primarily were the sarongs and beads and other trinkets.

Little did we know that we would find some of the best swimwear in an unassuming little store that could easily be missed. An unusually designed sarong hanging by the entrance of the store drew us inside to check out the rest of the merchandise.

It was, to say the least, swimwear paradise.

Bikini tops ranged from the tankini to the bra-type (with underwire and pads), from the bandeau to the triangle bikini top for the more daring. Boylegs and high-cut bikinis could also be found in the store. The two-piece suits came in cool colors and designs. Their suits were a nice combination of trendy and classic cuts. The owners, we found out, buy the suits in Hong Kong. Only a limited number of suits per design are ordered to minimize the possibility of similarly clad people running into each other as they prance around the beach.

Ruth of Smart, Happy David and yours truly spent a lot of time trying on suits. Buying a suit, as you very well know, requires a lot of consultation, assessment, concentration—in other words, it requires a whole lot of preening and posing in front of the mirror. In fact, the best way to test if a mirror will really crack if you look at your self too long is when you are trying on a swimsuit.

The assistants in the *talipapa* branch were more than helpful in our almost unending quest for that elusive perfect two-piece. (It was another story when we visited the store's branch by the beach—the *tindera* was a little bit spaced out and grouchy.) Ruth got her hands on a floral blue two-piece set that would have cost three times as much if she bought it in Manila. A pair of yellow board shorts also caught her attention. And since Ruth has a thing for coordination, she also bought a yellow two-piece suit to go with the shorts.

I fell in love with an aqua and yellow floral two-piece but could not find one that fit well. Maui, who is still not allowed to wear skimpy two-piece suits (thus she had to settle for the much safer tankini), worked out her frustration by trying on suits that caught her fancy. "Can someone take my picture while I'm wearing this?" she asked us while checking herself out in the dressing room.

Boracay is sarong world. Most of the stores in the *talipapa* carry the same designs, especially for the sarongs. But the sarong prints in Paulo Collection were very unique and unusual. Buying a sarong in this store minimizes the risk of bumping into someone wearing a similar if not the exact print. They also sell wooden clips that help make the sarong one of the most flexible pieces of cloth to have even been invented.

Not just swimsuits

Paulo Collection does not just offer swimsuits. It carries board shorts for both gals and guys and summer shirts for men like tie-dyes and Hawaiian designs. Summer outfits such as sundresses and tank tops can also be found in the store. Mon Isberto, one of Smart's head honchos, bought a lovely blue summer shirt, which he immediately donned for the MTV party. A pair of white drawstring cotton pants caught our attention but obviously it was in demand since they had no medium sizes left.

The store also carries beaded necklaces and bracelets. They are a bit pricey compared to those sold in the other stalls in the *talipapa* and by the beach. But then again they are not the usual run-of-the-mill accessories—you can tell by the materials that they use and, of course, their designs. Pam, our lead correspondent, fell in love and immediately bought a pair of silver hoops.

Apart from summer ensembles, the store also carries décor items like mirrors, masks, wall hangers and other lovely trinkets.

All the items found in the store, especially the swimsuits, are relatively affordable, especially if you compare them to the prices here in Manila.

So if you are headed for the lovely azure beaches of Boracay and could not find the perfect two-piece, then 2bU! highly recommends that you buy your dream swimwear there. Make sure you head straight to one particular store in Boracay that sells, among other things, glorious swimwear—Paulo Collection. It's worth the bumpy tricycle ride.

I should know. I now have a classic black two-piece triangle top bikini (à la Bo Derek) as one of my most favorite recent acquisitions. And it will hold a special place in my closet, where it shall stay unused for a long time. Unless of course modern technology enables me to fill it in the right places.

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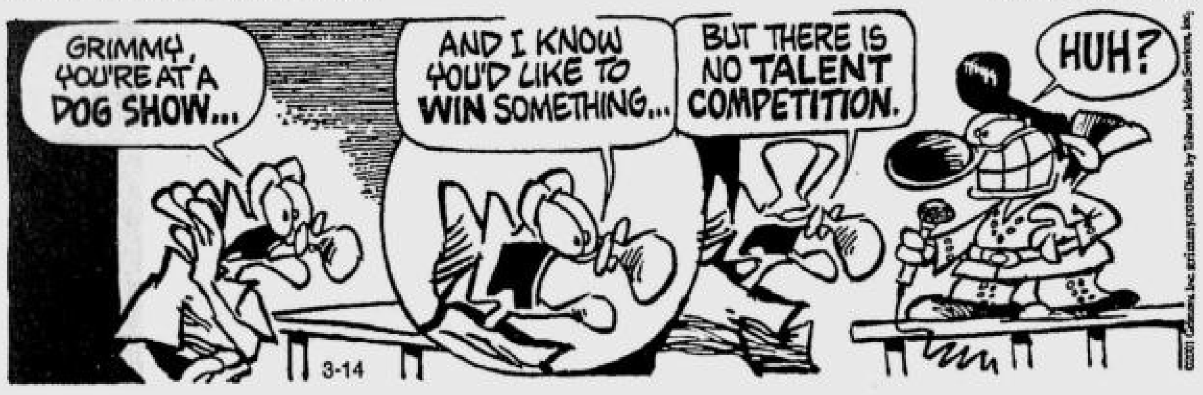
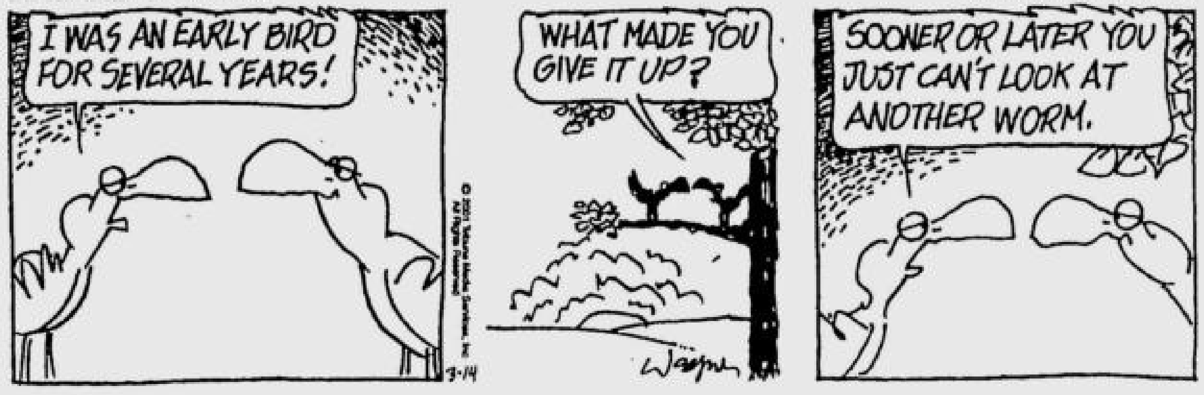
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMMY, YOU'RE AT A DOG SHOW...
AND I KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO WIN SOMETHING...
BUT THERE IS NO TALENT COMPETITION.
HUH?
3-14

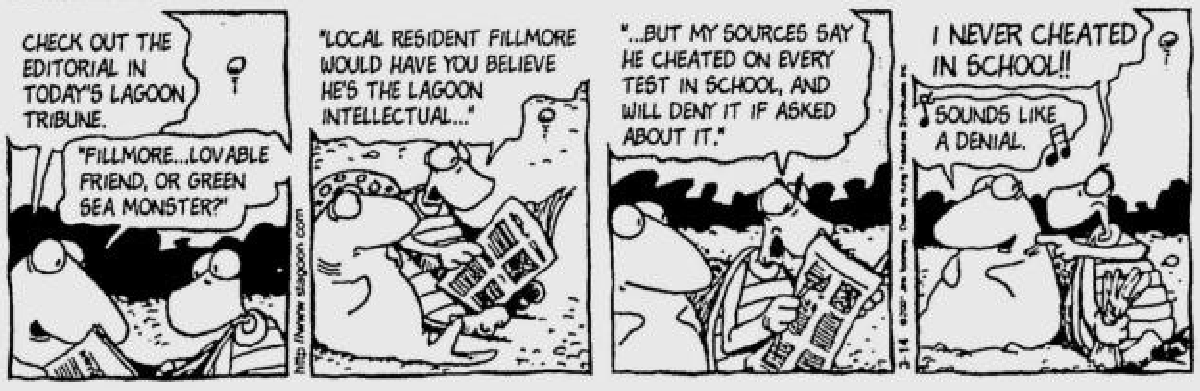
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I WAS AN EARLY BIRD FOR SEVERAL YEARS!
WHAT MADE YOU GIVE IT UP?
SOONER OR LATER YOU JUST CAN'T LOOK AT ANOTHER WORM.
3-14

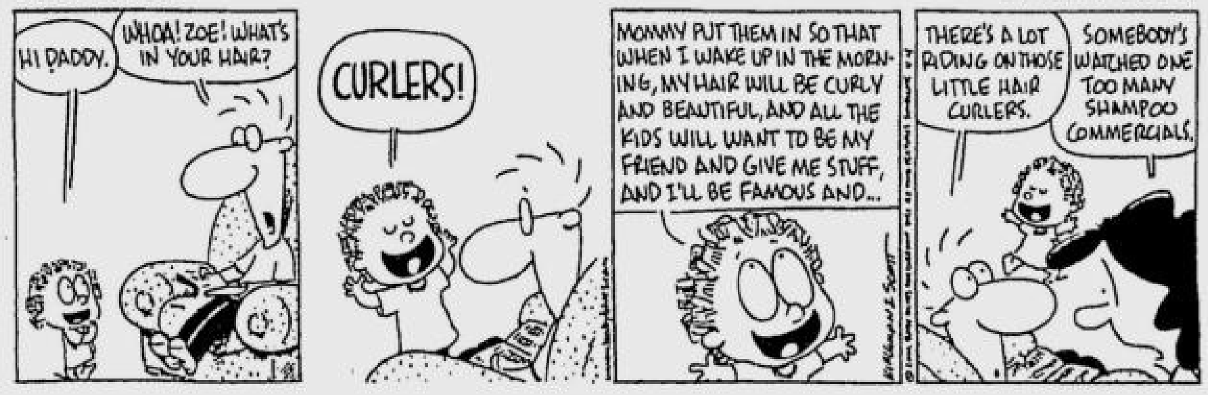
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


CHECK OUT THE EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S LAGOON TRIBUNE.
"FILLMORE...LOVABLE FRIEND, OR GREEN SEA MONSTER?"
"LOCAL RESIDENT FILLMORE WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE HE'S THE LAGOON INTELLECTUAL..."
"...BUT MY SOURCES SAY HE CHEATED ON EVERY TEST IN SCHOOL, AND WILL DENY IT IF ASKED ABOUT IT."
I NEVER CHEATED IN SCHOOL!!
SOUNDS LIKE A DENIAL.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI DADDY.
WHOA! ZOE! WHAT'S IN YOUR HAIR?
CURLERS!
MOMMY PUT THEM IN SO THAT WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MORNING, MY HAIR WILL BE CURLY AND BEAUTIFUL, AND ALL THE KIDS WILL WANT TO BE MY FRIEND AND GIVE ME STUFF, AND I'LL BE FAMOUS AND...
THERE'S A LOT RIDING ON THOSE LITTLE HAIR CURLERS.
SOMEBODY'S WATCHED ONE TOO MANY SHAMPOO COMMERCIALS.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bing Crosby, Lesley Gore, Christine Baranski, Larry Gatlin, David Suchet, William Hutt

Happy Birthday: Get moving. Put your plans into motion and stop waiting for everyone else to do things for you. Don't ponder too long over what's happening around you. Assess each situation quickly and make your move. Believe in your ability and concentrate on what will work. It's time to focus on your needs first. Your numbers: 19, 21, 24, 33, 36, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your cash into personal investments such as real estate or art items. Listen to what children have to say. They will have a unique vision regarding matters that you find confusing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Haste makes waste. Think your plans through carefully. Someone is likely to give you false information. You must be sure not to overreact to opposition.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Talk to someone you trust about your personal position. The advice given will be sound, but not necessarily to your liking. Take your time before you put the wheels in motion. Be observant.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is not the best time to lend or borrow money or be involved in investments. Children may take drastic measures to get your attention. You'll have to be more attentive to your family.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't complain about your job. Your mate will be on the rampage if you don't give him or her enough attention. Plan to do something that you'll both enjoy and take your mind off your work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There is someone at work you shouldn't trust with your personal secrets or your professional ideas. Work quietly on your own and don't leave any room for error. Don't take part in gossip.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Group involvement will be entertaining but expensive if you don't learn to say no. The personal changes you are experiencing will be favorable in the long run. Sign up for self-awareness courses.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Distress will result if your lover has been too friendly with others. Being revengeful is a waste of time. Stay calm and tell him or her how you feel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Problems with in-laws can be expected. Talk to your mate and try to work out the differences that have been causing problems. Get outside help if necessary but don't let relatives interfere.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Financial limitations may surface if you haven't put away extra cash in case of an emergency. Don't let others talk you into spending money you can't spare.

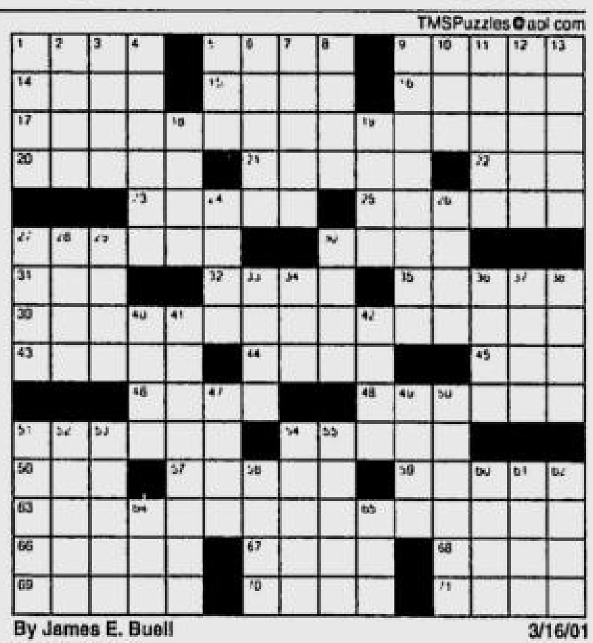
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let your partner push you. Stand your ground and let him or her know how you feel. You've put up with enough. Resolve your differences by expressing your concerns.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should be reevaluating your situation. Look at your options and start making the necessary arrangements to turn things around. You need activities that will stimulate your intellect.

Birthday Baby: You are sturdy, strong and stubborn. You know what is right and will not stand for anything that falls short of your expectations. You are precise in all that you do and will accomplish much throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL.
3/16/01

ACROSS
1 Take off
5 Nocturnal raptors
9 Shankar's instrument
14 Consumer
15 Type of rug or code
16 Once doubled
17 Spotlight shunner
20 Dance that takes two
21 Bethlehem product
22 Make a mistake
23 Must
25 Goes unnoticed
27 Criticize harshly
30 Hiker's route
31 $ promise
32 Lanai neighbor
35 Tussocks
39 Weight control
43 Mrs. Bunker
44 "...see how __ run"
45 Ostrich kin
46 Breaks bread
48 Under the most favorable conditions
51 Beds down on a branch
54 Landed estate
56 Make a choice
57 Confiscated
59 Fido's restraint
63 Intimidating look
66 Close, in poetry
67 Ultimatum word
68 Be sure of
69 Dweebs
70 Show of hands
71 Stage layouts

DOWN
1 Fine, dry particles
2 Workplace safety grp.
3 Plant with fronds
4 Alarm
5 Acorn dropper
6 Spot for a Rolex
7 Slow in tempo
8 Master or guru
9 Short dagger
10 __ Jima
11 Floor squares
12 Sour tasting, formerly
13 Give it another go
18 Biblical boat builder
19 Star in Lyra
24 Big rig
26 Hoodlum
27 Male parent
28 For both sexes
29 BMW rival
30 Dream or organ beginner
33 Common bugs
34 Sound of distaste
36 Complimentary
37 Stirling toppers
38 Sooty matter
40 Colorado tribe
41 Jabbers
42 Strikeout ace Nolan
47 Russian ruler
49 Price of passage
50 Intermissions
51 Mountain ash
52 Speak one's mind
53 Aquatic mammal
54 __ Park, NJ
55 Feeling of anxiety
58 City on the Dnieper
60 __ of Cleves
61 Glaswegian
62 Fells
64 Possessed
65 Make a right!

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	R	A	B		T	R	A	C	E		A	P	S	E
L	O	G	E		R	E	W	A	X		C	H	O	P
E	T	R	E		A	W	A	S	H		T	I	M	E
C	H	A	R	L	I	E	C	H	A	N		L	E	E
				S	I	L	L	S		L	I	M	O	
E	R	G		N	E	D		D	E	L	I	V	E	R
V	E	I	N	E	D		O	I	D		N	A	S	A
E	N	D	O	N		L	O	X		C	O	N	T	I
R	E	E	L		A	Y	E		F	A	R	C	E	S
T	W	O	T	O	N	E		H	E	R		F	S	E
	N	E	A	T		S	E	R	O	W				
A	R	F		F	A	T	H	E	R	B	R	O	W	N
C	A	E	N		R	E	A	D	E		E	R	I	E
M	I	L	E		E	L	M	E	R		C	A	N	S
E	L	L	E		S	L	E	D	S		K	N	O	T

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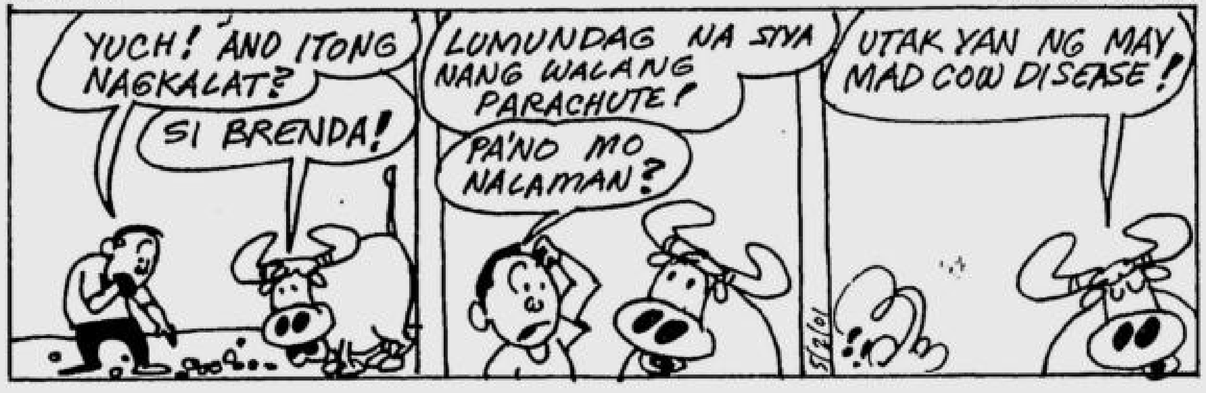
3/16/01

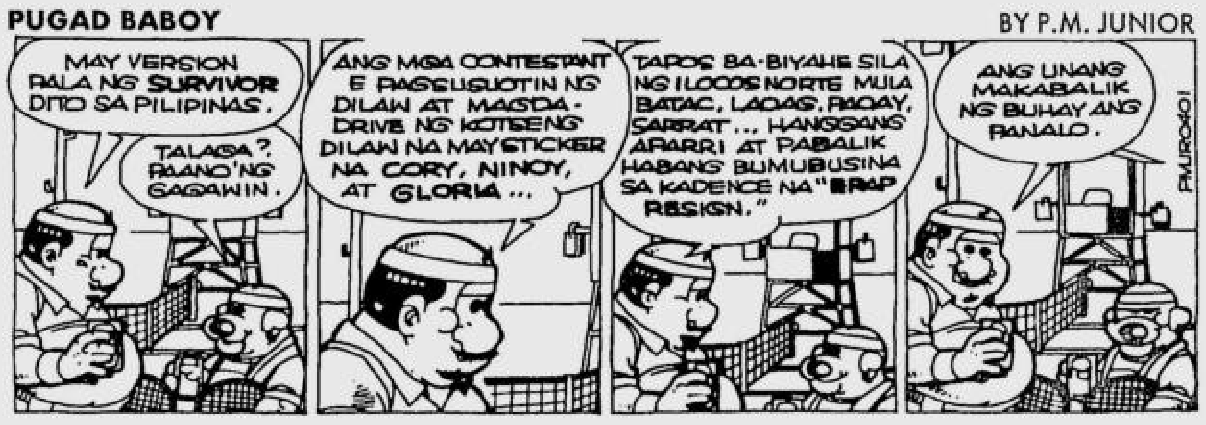
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YUCH! ANO ITONG NAGKALAT?
SI BRENDA!
LUMUNDAG NA SIYA NANG WALANG PARACHUTE!
PA'NO MO NALAMAN?
UTAK YAN NG MAY MAD COW DISEASE!

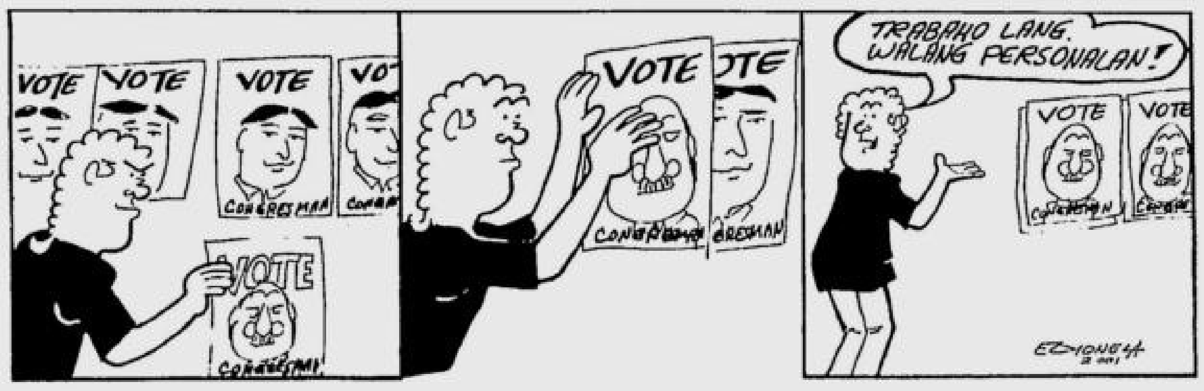
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY VERSION PALA NG SURVIVOR DITO SA PILIPINAS.
TALAGA? PAANO'NG GAGAWIN.
ANG MGA CONTESTANT E PAGSUSUOTIN NG DILAW AT MAGDA-DRIVE NG KOTSENG DILAW NA MAY STICKER NA CORY, NINOY, AT GLORIA...
TAPOS BA-BIYAHE SILA NG ILOCOS NORTE MULA BATAC, LAOAG, PAOAY, SARRAT... HANGGANG APARRI AT PABALIK HABANG BUMUBUSINA SA KADENCE NA "ERAP RESIGN."
ANG UNANG MAKABALIK NG BUHAY ANG PANALO.
PMJR

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


VOTE
VOTE
VOTE
CONGRESMAN
VOTE
CONGRESMAN
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VOTE
VOTE
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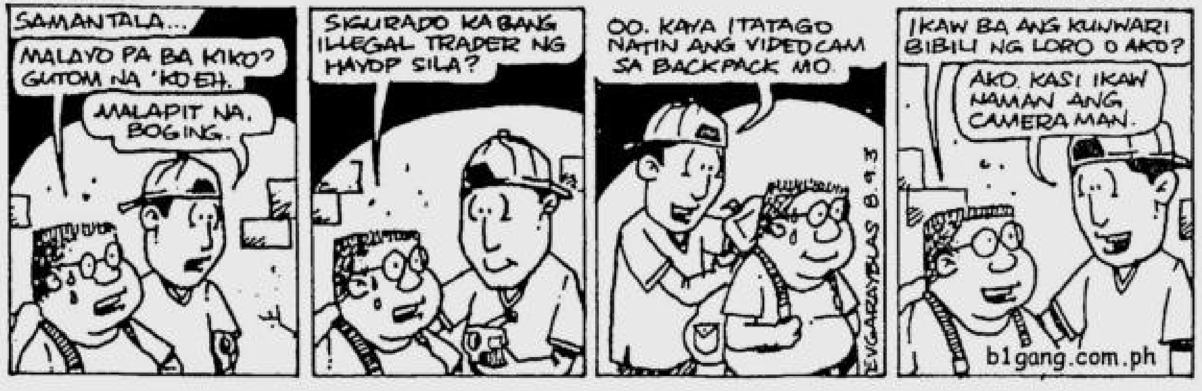
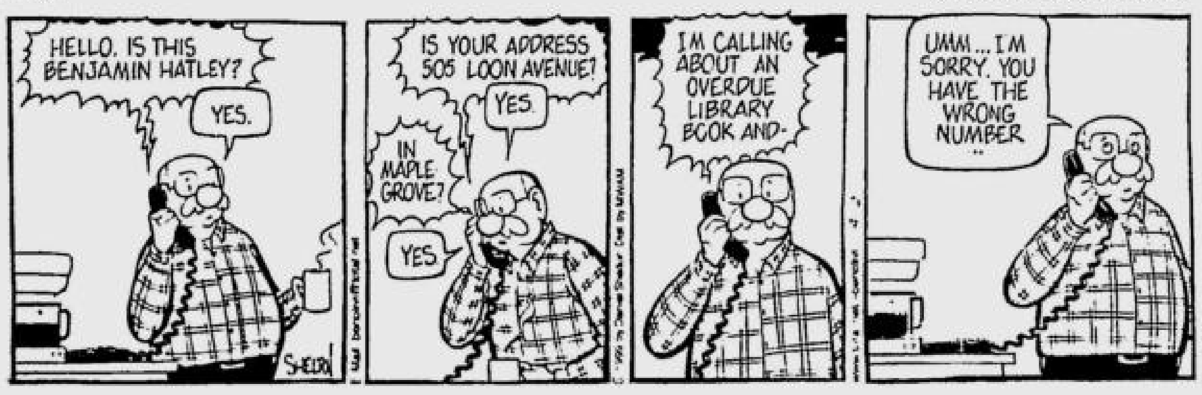
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SAMANTALA...
MALAYO PA BA KIKO? GUTOM NA 'KO EH.
MALAPIT NA, BOGING.
SIGURADO KA BANG ILLEGAL TRADER NG HAYOP SILA?
OO. KAYA ITATAGO NATIN ANG VIDEOCAM SA BACKPACK MO.
IKAW BA ANG KUNWARI BIBILI NG LORO O AKO?
AKO. KASI IKAW NAMAN ANG CAMERA MAN.
b1gang.com.ph

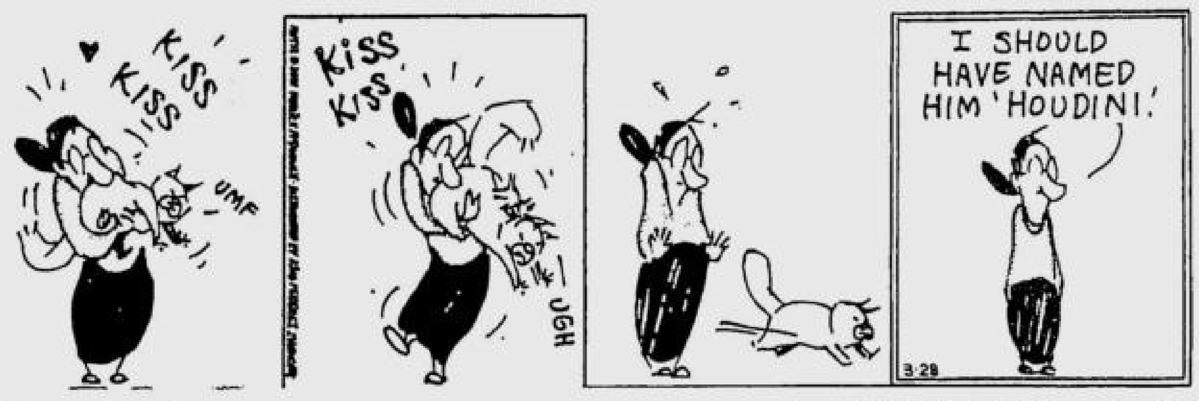
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO. IS THIS BENJAMIN HATLEY?
YES.
IS YOUR ADDRESS 505 LOON AVENUE?
YES.
IN MAPLE GROVE?
YES.
I'M CALLING ABOUT AN OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOK AND-
UMM... I'M SORRY. YOU HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER
SHELTON

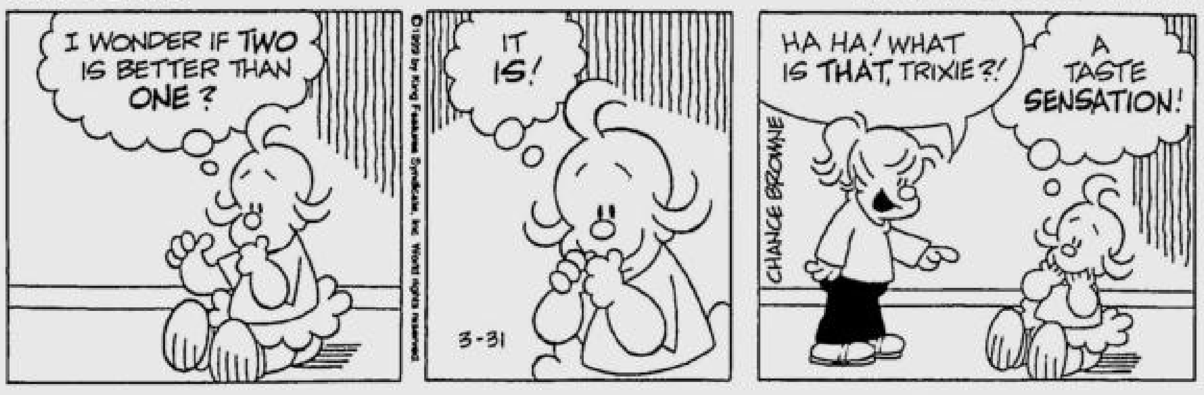
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


KISS
KISS
UMF
KISS
KISS
UGH
I SHOULD HAVE NAMED HIM 'HOUDINI.'
3-28

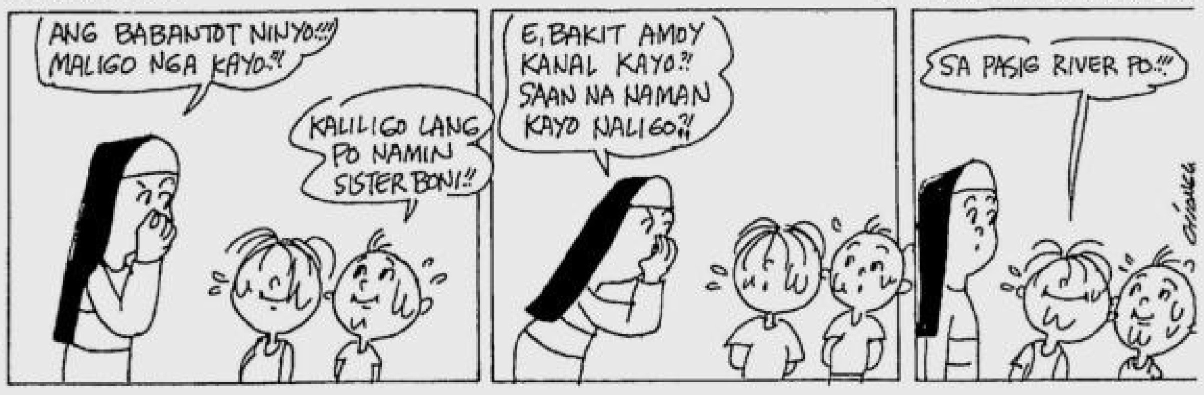
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I WONDER IF TWO IS BETTER THAN ONE?
IT IS!
3-31
HA HA! WHAT IS THAT, TRIXIE?!
A TASTE SENSATION!
CHANCE BROWNE

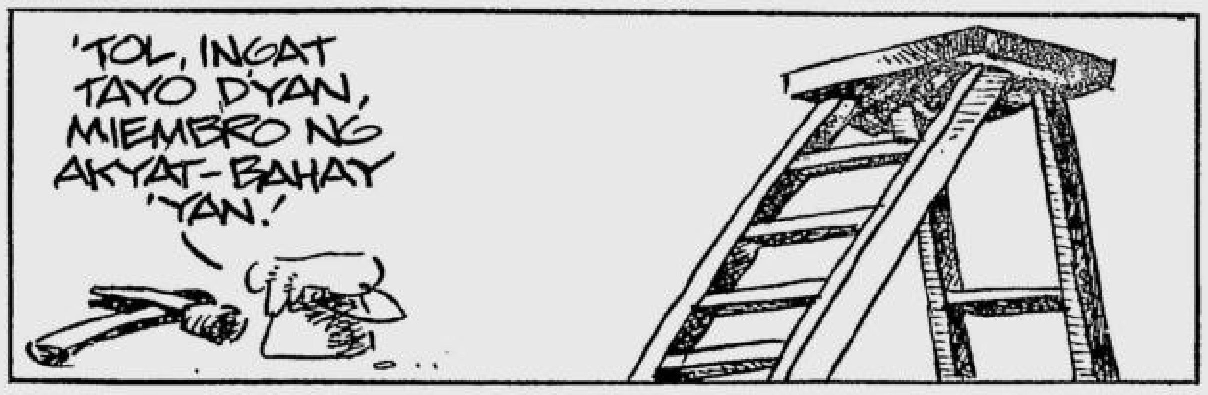
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG BABANTOT NINYO!!! MALIGO NGA KAYO?!
KALILIGO LANG PO NAMIN SISTER BONI!!
E, BAKIT AMOY KANAL KAYO?! SAAN NA NAMAN KAYO NALIGO?!
SA PASIG RIVER PO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'TOL, INGAT TAYO D'YAN, MIEMBRO NG AKYAT-BAHAY 'YAN.'

to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you!

She's still in love with her mom's married cousin

September
Mahino &
Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Caloy and Sep,

I was 15 years old when I fell in love for the first time. It's a different love story because I fell in love with my mother's cousin.

It started with a platonic love until it became more intense. No words were uttered but we acted as BF and GF. We had a mutual understanding. But we tried to overcome that feeling. I had a BF then and he had his GF, too. I thought it would help but each time we met, the feelings became more intense. (Maybe because we miss each other.) Still, we tried to overcome it. He married his GF while I broke up with my BF. I left our place hoping I could forget that feeling.

It has been almost a year now but there are nights I wake up crying, longing for him. I gave him up because I thought my relatives would curse us. Now I regret letting him go just because I was afraid. Please give me some advice.

REGRETS

There is no question that what you decided to do was right. True love or not, he's a relative. And he's married. You can cry your eyes out every night but things would not change. Society won't allow what you want to happen and imagine the pain you would cause your uncle's wife if you decide to resume the relationship. I just hope nothing happened between the two of you, even with your choice of words in describing your feelings for him.

It has only been a year so there is an excuse for your acting the way you are acting. But you should start getting over him and you should try really hard to do it. Doing otherwise would only be a show of stupidity and insensitivity. Just think: If you have a daughter and there is something more than filial love going on between her and your brother or a male cousin, wouldn't you be the first one to pry them apart?

SEP

Great poets of the Romantic Era, the fathers of philosophy, Cheetah, all have in common the urge to copulate with their own. It's not something to lightheartedly declare of yourself during table talk, the forum being more of the below-the-table or the pajama party type. And though it is, for some scientific and quasi-moral reason, taboo, there is a certain comedic appeal from the outside, but always a cherry-blossomed memory on the inside. Sort of like "running through the orchard in the nude."

Many stories whirlwind 'round the chaos of forbidden love. Yet you just have to suspend your disbelief sometimes and say, "It must have been love, but it's over now." I mean, could the Rebellion have stood a chance had Luke not used his Jedi powers to call out to his cousin's mental image, a first impression (a hologram from a droid of suspiciously sexual form), to save him as he hung handless in the City in the Clouds. Facts! History! These are a few of my favorite things.

Do you believe that it was love, and you actually enjoyed the rush, the swing of the deal? Did Romeo, under the cover of night, regret that he was missing some wrestling match at the plaza a single night? (And what's with the name Capulet, anyway?) Surely, Don Juan could have unknowingly hit a little too close to home with his thousands upon thousands of lovers. Wilt Chamberlain, Cassanova, Plato did it with unbelievably different faces, forms and gender.

Reading your last paragraph, I noticed you think it's all about you. The electricity of the first touch slowly resonating in your ears. This is replaced by the subconscious good Catholic (I'm guessing) in you. You are muted by your mixed emotions, by intermission time.

In the Second Act he writes home with the news of a wedding in the Spring, as you cry your eyes out over splitting up with your boyfriend. You gave him up because you were afraid of public opinion. The curtains close.

The coffee after the play is abuzz with *chismis* and "public opinion," but you hold the true meaning of what really happened close to your heart. There is nobody to blame but everyone to applaud in this true-to-life drama. Love, lust, pain—a great romance to me.

CARLOS

E-mail the authors at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

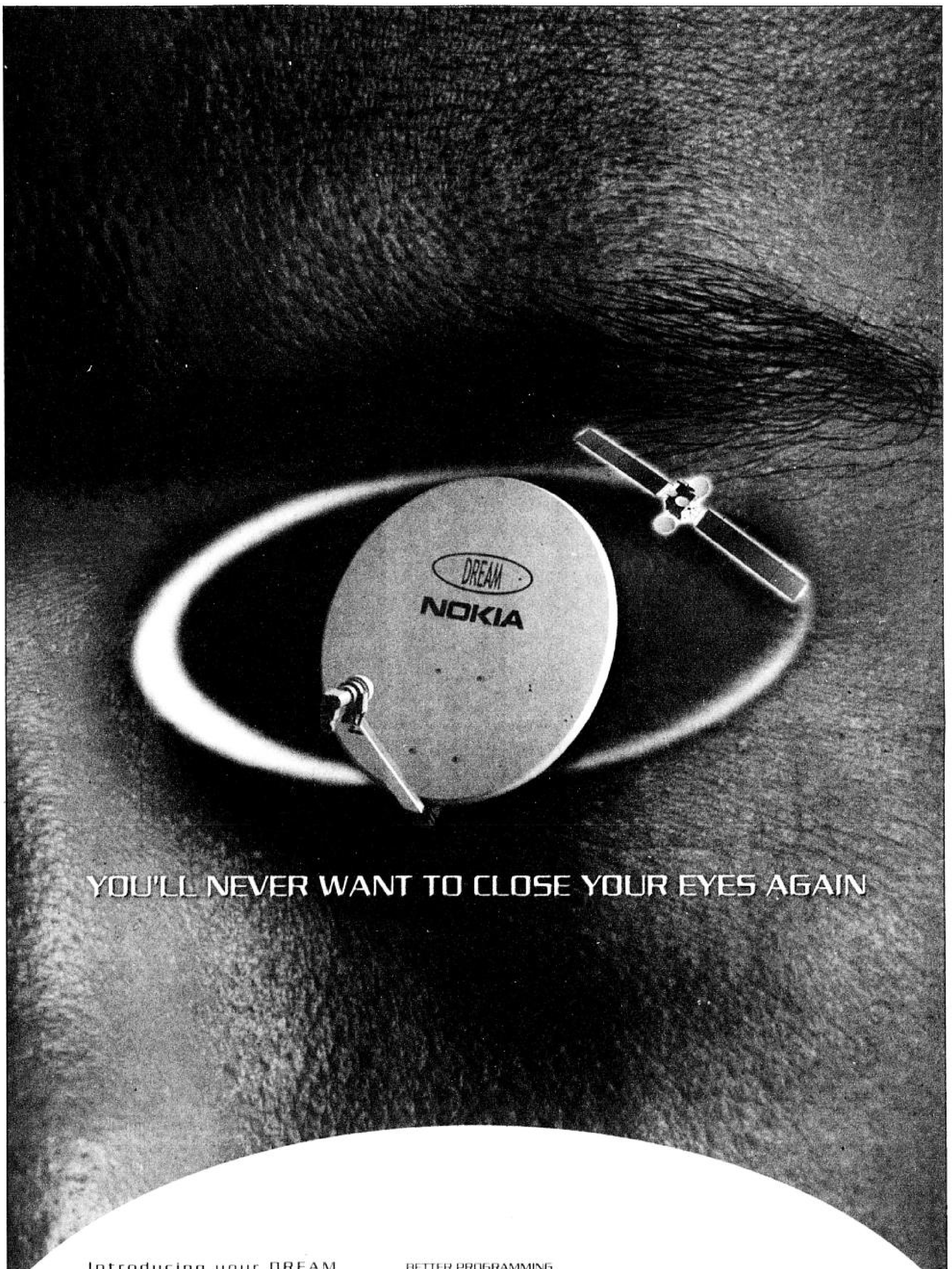
Smart public access program available in Boracay

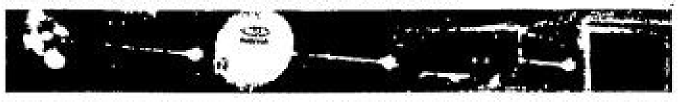
SMART was the first cellular phone company to provide service in Boracay. This was in line with the company's overall thrust to support travel and tourism in the country.

So far, Smart has installed three cell sites to ensure that the entire island is covered.

As part of Smart's Public Access program, Smart has also deployed 25 SmarTalk GSM payphones in strategic places, from beachfront hotels to the *talipapa*, to service the needs of the locals and tourists without cell phones. NDD, IDD and local calls, as well as cellular can be made through the first GSM payphone service in the country. Text messages can also be sent through these payphones.

Smart Money, the international award-winning electronic cash card, is now accepted in Boracay establishments. Here is a list of resorts/bars that have agreed to sign up as merchant-partners. They are expected to start accepting Smart Money anytime now: Beach Comber Bar and Disco, Waling-waling Beach Resort, Pearl of the Pacific, Boracay Gold Crowne Club, SandCastles Resort, Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel and Apartments, Casa Pilar, Summer Place, Bazzura Bar, Steak House (discount only), Boracay Plaza and Wahine Café.





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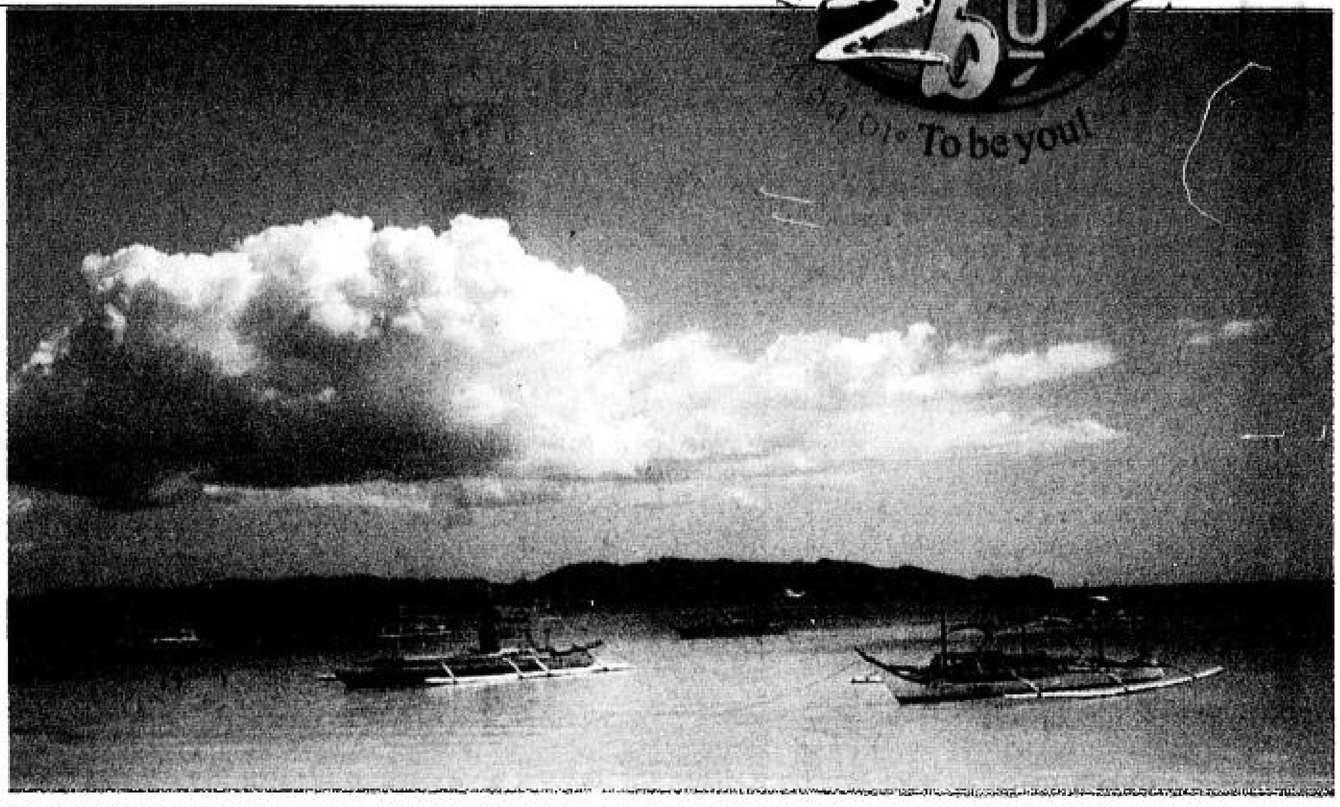

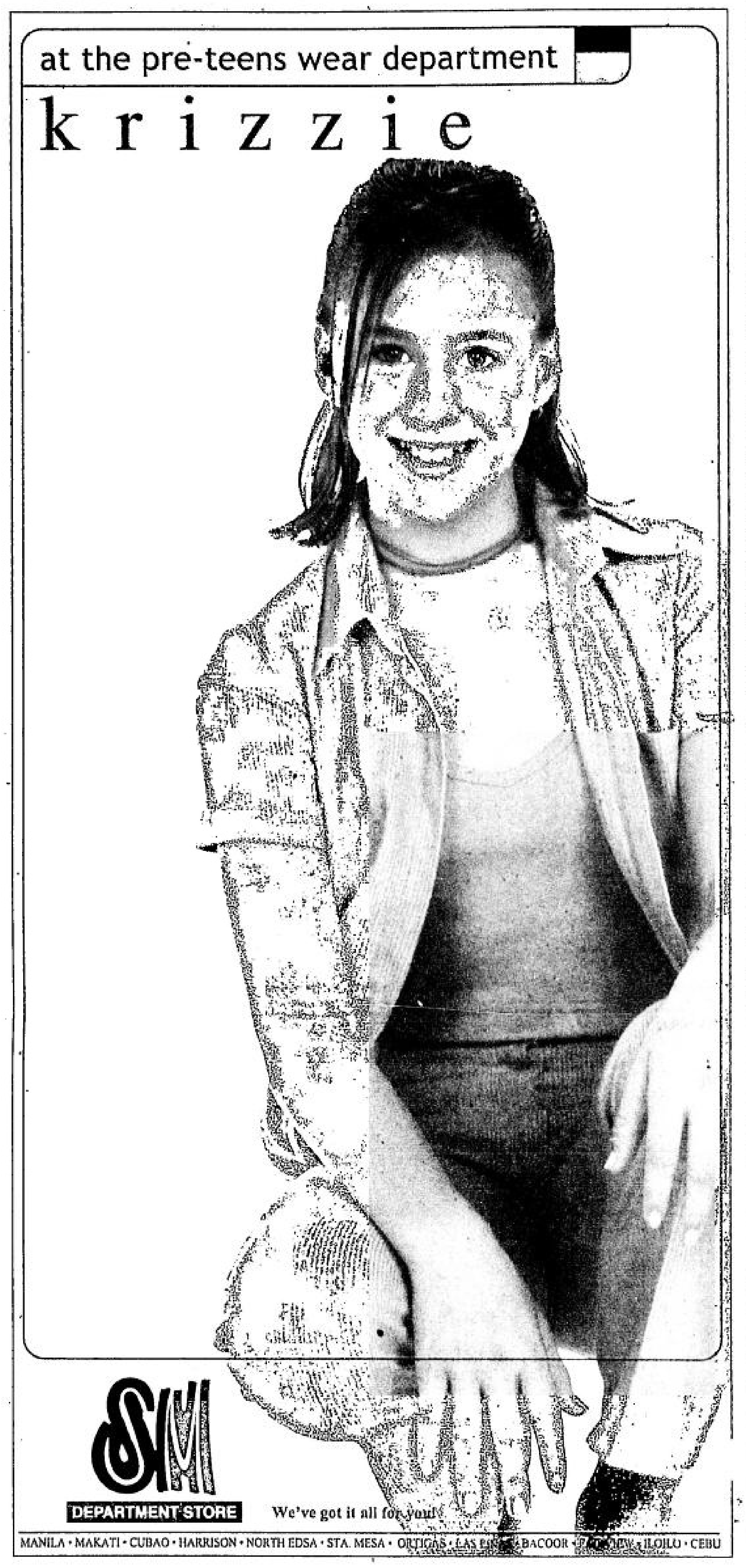
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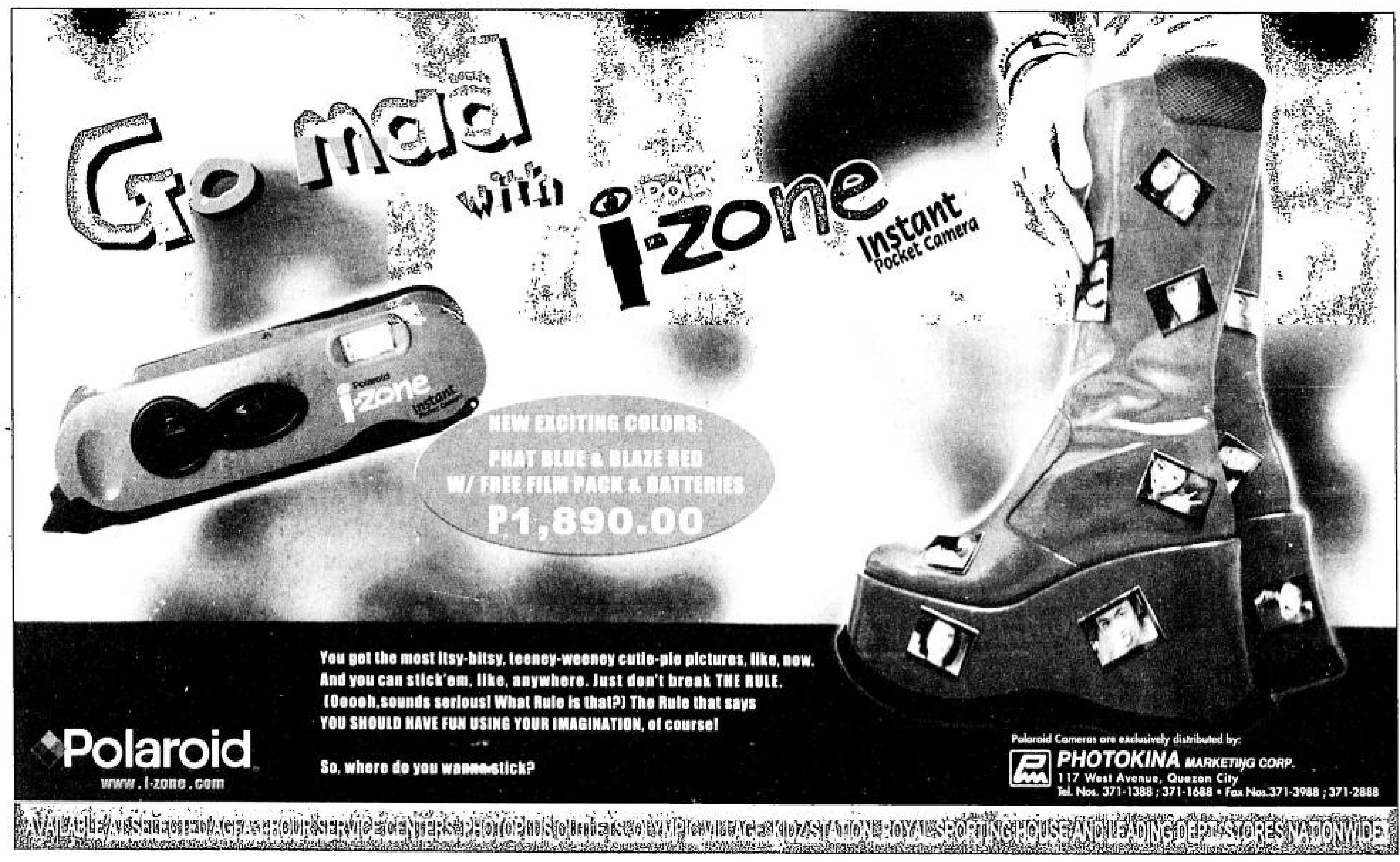
Postcards from paradise

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

WE can use all the adjectives in the dictionary to try and describe the Boracay experience. But there are times when words fail. Hopefully, these snapshots paint a better view of the paradise that Boracay is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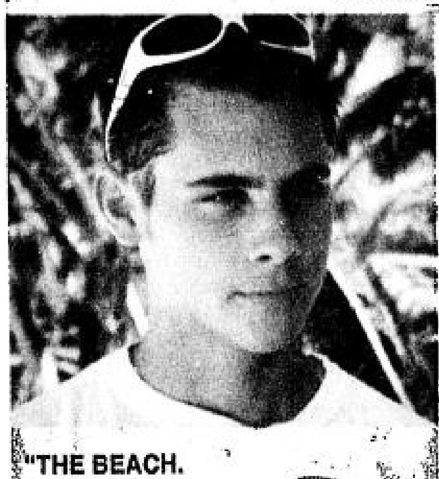
LIFESTYLE

to be young • to be you • To be you!



"THE BEACH. Also, jet skiing."—Diego, 18, Spain

"WATER-SKIING and boating because it's really, really fun."—Paula, 21

"WATER-SKIING because it's fun and also because it's dangerous."—Inyego, 15

PHOTOS BY MAUI V. REYES

Survey: Boracay must-dos and must-haves

By Maui V. Reyes

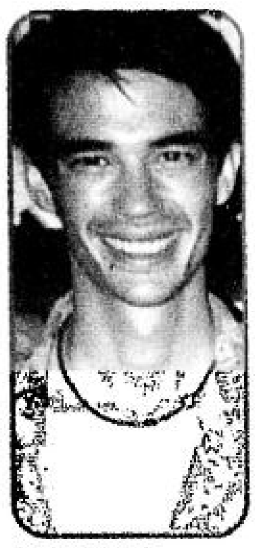
SUN and fun don't quite capture the attraction of what some people consider as paradise: Boracay. The Department of Tourism's brochure may boast of the "thousands of sun-worshippers [who] flock to the island," but there are more things to do than just lie on the powder-white sand and bake under the hot sun. In fact, during our stay, sleeping was our last priority… we simply didn't want to miss a moment in paradise!

But, alas, time caught up with us, as it will catch up with *you*, too, when you visit the island. That's why when you're in Boracay, lounging around on the beach the entire day isn't acceptable. Bars, markets, parties and aqua sports are begging to be tried out, and who could say no to exotic and delish dishes only served at the *other* side of the beach?

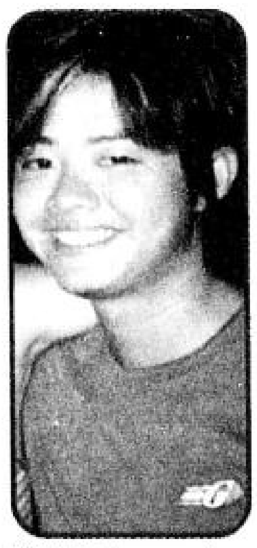
We asked a bunch of Boracay babes to complete this sentence, "Never leave Boracay without…," to find out what's on top of their must-do and must-have lists. You may want to add 'em to yours.

SURVEY/ p.D5

"SUNTAN. And getting laid."—Mos, 25
"Going to the beach parties, which are cool, unlike in Manila."—Roy, 23



"A SUBLIME personal experience. Also, diving. Well, you should fulfill your dreams here. I mean, it's paradise!"—David, 25



"LYING down on the sand with someone interesting and talking about the stars. It's the bomb!"—GP

PHOTOS BY TAMMY DAVID

"GOING on the banana boat. I have ridden it and it was an extraordinary experience. And, no, I didn't fall!"—Bon, 21
"A bikini tan, so you can say you've been to Boracay!"—Liza, 23
"A good tan and a good sarong. That's proof you've been to Boracay. The best place to buy sarongs is at the *talipapa*."—Ginger, 22

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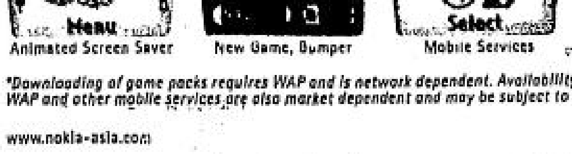

*Downloading of game packs requires WAP and is network dependent. Availability of such downloads, WAP and other mobile services are also market dependent and may be subject to charges. Please check with your operator.
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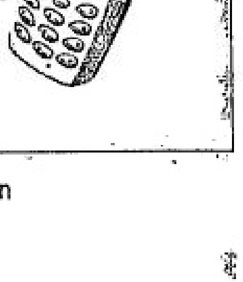

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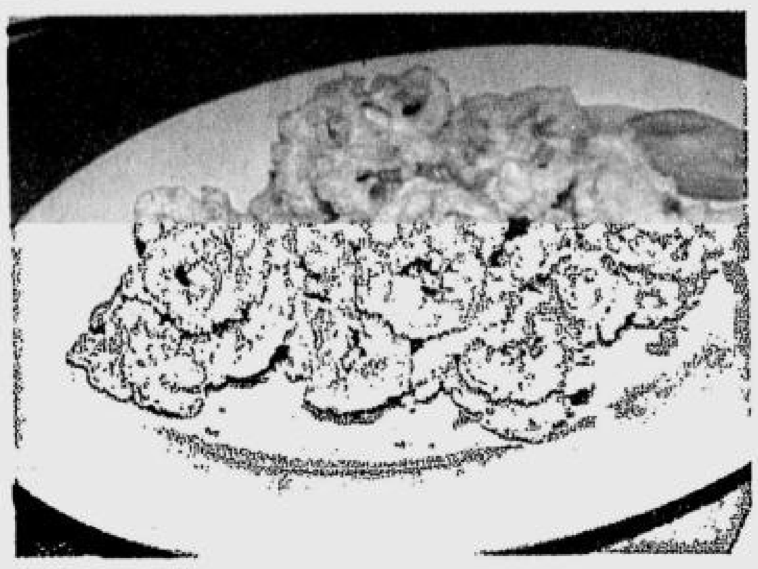
(CLOCKWISE, from top) Crispy shrimps, baked mussels with garlic cheese, blue marlin *salpicao* (San Mig)

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR AND TAMMY DAVID



CALAMARES (Hey Jude)

Food trip in Boracay

BY PAM PASTOR

"THE FORMULA to Boracay is to eat and drink. Then you can swim," Mon Isberto said with a smile. I don't know about drinking—alcohol isn't one of my life's pleasures. But I totally agree with him about the eating part.

A huge fraction of the almost five days we stayed in Boracay were spent eating good food. Yes, mouth-watering, sinful, really, really good food.

First good meal

Jason, Tammy, Tim and I were in Boracay a day ahead of the others. We arrived in paradise hungry. The trip was long and tiring—and eating chips on the road did us no good. We had a late lunch at the hotel (it was actually time for *merienda*), but the food is nothing to sneeze at. I refuse to even mention what we ate.

We had our first good meal that night, when Tim, the good soul that he is, decided to play tour guide. He took us to Gorio's (Station 2)—Boracay's famous crepe place—for appetizers. We ordered four varieties and shared them. Ham, Mushrooms and Bechamel Sauce (P95), La Pinay (mango, vanilla ice cream and chocolate—P90), Funtastyc (banana, nutella, vanilla ice cream and flambé in Grand Marnier—P150) and Vesuve (ham, cheese, tomatoes). They were light, they were rich—we were exclaiming over them. The Vesuve was spicy, the ham, mushrooms and bechamel sauce flavorful, the La Pinay a delight, but the Funtastyc was the winner for me. The combination of heat and cold that melts on the tongue was just too good.

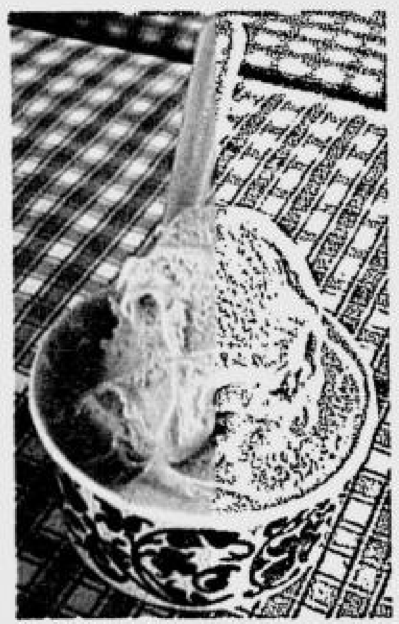
With the meal we had shakes—mango, banana, pineapple (P70), ice cream milkshake (P70) and the mango shake (P60).

The place is very laid-back (pretty much like the whole island itself) and very exotic. There were bamboo and wood everywhere—and the lamps added a fine touch. The only tell-tale signs we were in the 21st century were the computer monitors on the counter.

From Gorio's we hopped on to Hey Jude, which actually became our hangout during our entire stay—our nights would have been incomplete without dropping by the place. We ordered two pizzas—Margherita (basil, oregano, extra cheese, P110) with extra pepperoni, and the Alla Romana (with anchovies and capers, P170)—and a pasta dish—Fra Diavolo (mixed seafood in spicy tomato sauce, P210). Tammy, the anchovy addict that she is, loved the Alla Romana. The next night, we discovered that Hey Jude's calamares are also really, really good.

Cheap thrill

Hours after the meal at Hey Jude, and after dancing at the Beachcomber with some people from MTV, we ate hotdogs, barbecue and grilled squid on stick off the stalls that were set up on the sand. Cheap thrill but, hey, it was good.



HOMEMADE pistachio ice cream (Dos Mestizos)

The next morning, Maui and Marco arrived with Ruth and Sir Mon (finally!). We started the day with lunch at San Mig, Waling-Waling Resort's restaurant. It was literally a feast. Onion rings (P70), sizzling *pusit* (P200), sizzling *tanguigue* (P200), sizzling boneless chicken (P220), blue marlin *salpicao* (P180), baked mussels with garlic cheese (P120), crispy shrimps (P140) and calamares. The sizzling *pusit* was delicious, the mussels were also great. I loved the blue marlin *salpicao*, although the taste is very similar to the sizzling *tanguigue*. As usual, we had shakes with the meal. Their banana-mango shakes, everyone agrees, are the best we tried during the whole trip, at P90 per glass.

The best pizza

That afternoon, we all sat in front of Boracay Plaza (Station 1 beside Willy's). We were waiting for Jules, Happy and Nick to arrive. What a way to wait. We were watching the sunset, toes buried in the sand, while enjoying pizza—damn good and inexpensive, let me stress, pizza.

We ordered two kinds, Margherita (basil, oregano, mozzarella: small, P80; big, P120) and Napoletana (anchovy, mozzarella cheese, tomato, oregano: small, P100; big, P120). I loved the Margherita. It was crispy and light.

One thing I noticed about Boracay is that almost every single restaurant sells pizza—but Boracay Plaza's Margherita pizza tops it for me. I actually wanted to bring a few to Manila.

My mouth still waters at the thought of it.

My Mongolian disaster

That night we all trooped over to Cocomangas for an MTV-sponsored Mongolian dinner. Not exactly adept at blindly mixing food in the dark, I obediently fell in line, looked at the looong rows of raw food in front of me and just dumped whatever looked pretty into my bowl. On to another queue where a young girl put rice on top of my creation.

I just crossed my fingers and hoped it would be edible. When it finally got to me (loong minutes later), I was surprised to find that it was actually okay. Not bad at all. But I do like knowing what I was eating. So I wasn't able to finish my food.

A *balut* vendor wandered near our table. We called him over. Tammy and Happy got their dose of *balut*. The rest of us gave the *chicharon* a shot.

Cocomangas' banana-mango shake in a jam jar was pretty good, though.

Breakfast in a cabana

We had breakfast at one of Waling Waling's cabanas. My *daing na bangus* was tasty, but I was too excited about going on the banana boat to focus on eating.

Lunch that day was supposed to be in one of the *turo-turos* in the *talipapa*. Quick change of plans, though, when Jimmy of Waling Waling warned us of possible sanitation problems in that area.

We decided to go to Dos Mestizos (Station 1 behind Beachcomber Disco and Bar), a highly recommended Spanish restaurant. Although it just opened on Feb. 1, the place has lived up to its reputation of serving good Spanish food.

We tried two variations of *paella—valenciana* (mixed meat and seafood, P250) and marinera (seafood, P275). The *gambas al ajillo* (fresh shrimps cooked in extra virgin oil and garlic, P145) was a treat for the palate. It was especially good when eaten with warm bread.

Calamares fever

Luis Martin, the restaurant's owner, sat with us as we enjoyed the meal. We praised his calamares *fritos con aros de cebolla* (P130) and even asked him how he was able to make the squid that tender. The calamares, everyone agreed, was the best we tasted. It was served with lime, the batter covering it was very thin, almost translucent. It did not overpower the taste of the squid. Instead, it enhanced it.

The *mejillones al ajillo* (mussels in olive oil and garlic—P128) was light and delicately flavored. You may cap the meal at Dos Mestizos with homemade ice cream they sell a few steps away. We recommend the pistachio flavor.

Garlicky, buttery rice

Next day's lunch was at the Steakhouse (near "D Mall"), which was right above Paulo Collection. It was another feast. Lettuce salad with mushrooms, bacon and egg (P120), Swiss sausage salad with cheese (P150) and fish carpaccio, smoked mascasugue (P220) started our meal. Maui and I decided to share an order of beef tenderloin (P280). I wanted it well done and when it arrived, the outside was still raw. We had it sent back to the kitchen. Pasta servings were huge, the pan-fried potatoes (P60) tasty, but I would go back to this restaurant for one reason—their garlic rice. It was buttery and flavorful. The perfect complement to a steak.

True Indian food

This, which was also our last full meal there since the next day promised to be really hectic, was my favorite Boracay meal. And to think I almost missed it.

That night, I had the option of staying in the hotel room to rest since my accident occurred a few hours ago. Despite the fact I had been looking forward to this meal my entire stay and people were saying you can't leave Boracay without trying True Food (Station 2), I was considering it since I was still feeling sorry for myself. But Happy helped me snap out of my pity party when she said, "You better go out. Let's have fun. If you stay here, you'll just focus on the pain." I took off my pajamas as quick as I can. She was right. And I'm thankful.

True Food, according to locals, is Boracay's most popular restaurant. I am not surprised. The meal was so good it should go down in history books.

Take off your shoes and settle down on the huge pillows scattered on the floor. Only then would you be ready for the True Food experience.

Before ordering, Sir Mon gave us a crash course on Indian food. He is no stranger to it, since he once lived in India for an entire month. He speaks of Indian food passionately. "It was in India that I learned you really could become vegetarian. They had so many spices and cooked vegetables in such interesting ways it wouldn't matter if you weren't eating meat."

After tasting the *somosa*, I completely agreed. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Indian food has always fascinated me, especially after reading about it in my Asian Studies classes in college. Reading and actually tasting it are two very different experiences.

We ordered the Crispy Papad (crispy Indian chips, P45). A big fan of crispy food, we had to get another helping just to satisfy me. Yes, I liked it that much. We had two kinds of bread, *chapati* (crisp, unleaven bread of whole-wheat flour) and *naan* (leaven, white-flour bread cooked in tandoori oven), which we ate with the *motabhal* (roasted eggplant and yoghurt dip).

They liked the *mulliga twany* (curried yellow lentil soup, P100), which was okay for me, although I'm not really a soup person. We also had the lamb *rogan josh* (tender lamb cooked in traditional spices, yoghurt and tomato sauce, P325), *maseha tare ko* (fish filler in herb-flavored batter and deep-fried, P255) and *hummus* (mildly spiced pureed garbanzo beans, P115).

We ate everything with *matar jeera pulao*—a tasty fried rice with fresh peas, caramelized onions, cumin and seeds. I enjoyed the whole meal, but my top picks are the Tandoori Chicken (tender chicken in yoghurt, ginger, garlic and chili paste cooked in tandoori oven) and vegetable *somosa* (deep-fried dumplings stuffed with mixed vegetables and spices, P110). Now that I think about it, I can't wait to go back to True Food.

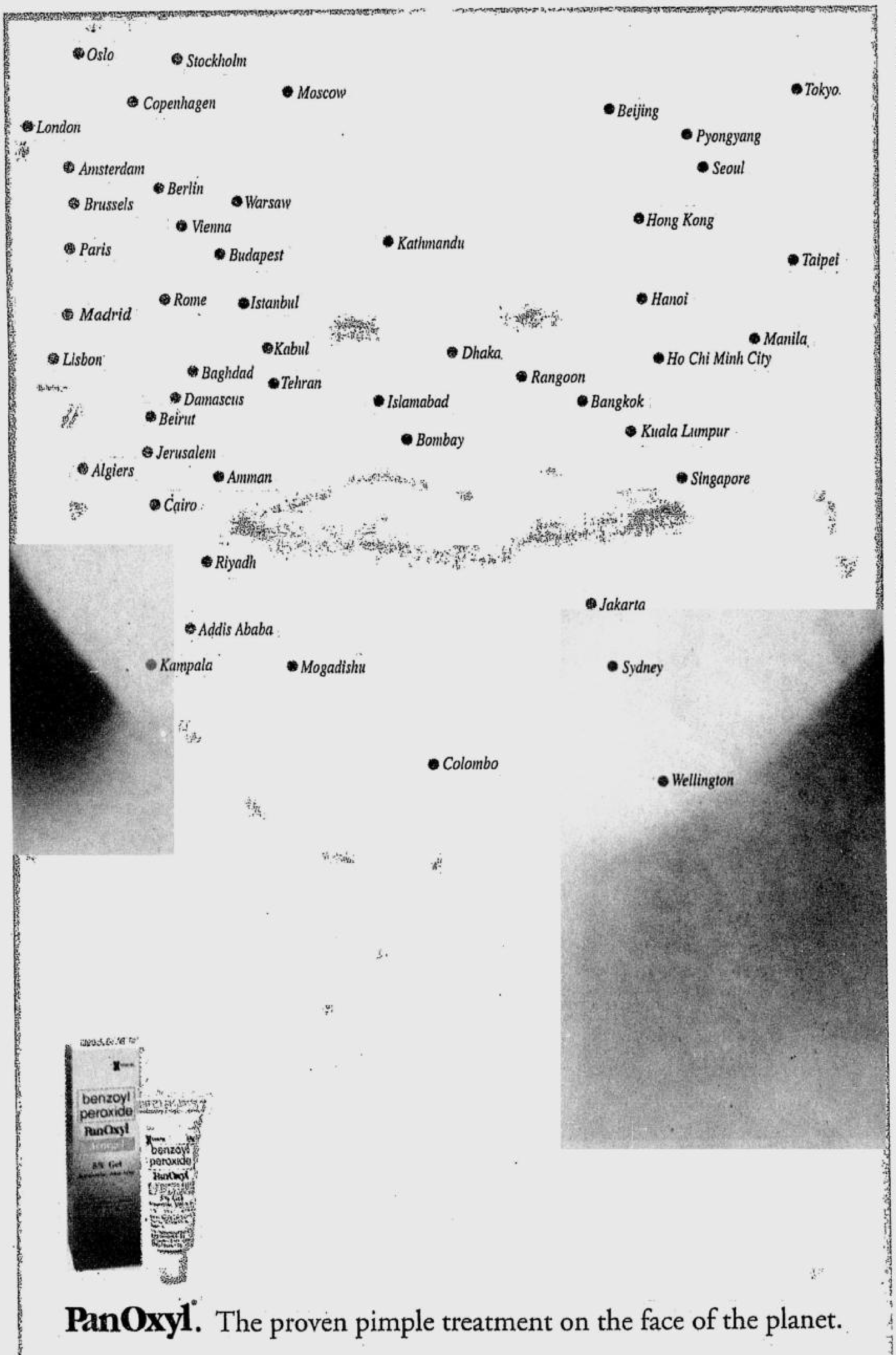
Unforgettable Boracay goodies

I asked the others about their unforgettable Boracay dish. They had different answers.

Jason loved Waling Waling's sizzling *pusit*, Maui and Jules both craved for Dos Mestizos' calamares. Jules also liked breakfast at Waling Waling. Tammy was obsessed with Hey Jude's Alla Romana Pizza. Happy was nuts over Waling Waling's Banana Peanut shake. I loved the Margherita Pizza at Boracay Plaza. We all agreed on one thing—Waling Waling's banana mango shake was something to be crazy about.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

PAELLA Valenciana (Dos Mestizos)



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PA-01-01 PH

Passing the bars

BY JASON DOPLITO
2bU! Correspondent

PEOPLE don't only come to Boracay for the powdery sand and immaculate waters; they also come to party. The uninitiated should think of Boracay as a macro version of Malate. The bars literally line the shore, making it almost impossible to walk past all of them the whole day. If you plan to do that by foot, you will need two or three days.

On second thought, it would be unfair to compare Boracay to Malate. It should, in fact, be the other way around: Malate is like Boracay. For starters, the original Café Breton is on the island and so is a fabulous crepe place named Goryo's. Along with this discovery, I've learned that everyone has a place in Boracay. From the high society to the ordinary folk, everyone is accepted as he/she is.

Here are the places to hang just in case you find yourself spending a lonely night in Boracay.

Cocomangas Hotel & Beach Resort

Unique for: Billiard tables, lounge areas and, hey, the DJ plays your request!

Famous for: "Still standing after 15" & Jam Jars.

Backpacking has taken John Monroe of Vancouver, Canada a long way. After having toured the world, he stopped by the sunny island of Boracay and fell in love with it. In 1986, what started out as a hotel resort branched out to the now famous Cocomangas bar, which greets passersby with a very relaxed and laidback atmosphere. Any place that takes two tropical fruits for its name must exude some charm.

The bar literally made this paper's headline for its unique gimmick, "Still Standing After 15." The concept is simple: drink 15 straight shots of tequila, and after that if you're still, well, standing, then you earn for yourself a metallic name plate (to be put alongside hundreds of other "survivors" in their gallery) and honor for your country. Yes, you heard that last one right. Survivors are tallied based on their citizenship, and so far Filipinos lead the Brits by 1,385 survivors (2,204 as against 819). It would be interesting to note that only one Egyptian, one Nepalese, one Tongan and one guy from Lesotho have tried the Cocomangas tequila challenge, as attested to by the chart.

If drinking is not your cup of, er, tea, then slug it out at the billiard's table, or just hang around the spacious lounge areas while sipping the bar's specialty, the jam jars. That or laugh at those who fail the "still standing" challenge.

Beachcomber Bar Disco & Restaurant

Unique for: Dancing to both electronic music and rhythmic lapping of the waves (this is beachfront property).

Famous for: Beachcomber Mudslide.

If you have walked the fine shore of Boracay at night, chances are you've seen this bar with its blaring music and attractive lights. If you went in, you would've been totally reminded of the '80s discos, if not for the sand on your feet and the shore just to your left (or right or front... depending on where you're facing). This open-air bar is perfect for anyone who's into the groove and wants to get a piece of the action by dancing to popular and not-so-popular dance tunes. Don't fret, there's nothing horrifying as "Aringkingking," although the sets could use some techno-pop/rock music.

According to Wilbec Gelito, bar owner-partner, Beachcomber also holds at least two theme parties a week, explaining its popularity among the locals. "I really think it's the atmosphere that sells the place. It's nice to have all of these right on the beach, where it's more accessible to the people," he explains. Meanwhile, bartender Rhiam Gardina offers another explanation for the popularity—the Beachcomber Mudslide. "It's vodka and Kahlua with flavored ice cream. It's one of our house specials that's proving to be a favorite."

Aside from the bar, there's a quaint Korean dining area tucked in a little corner of Beachcomber. The flooring is done in wood, topped with a carpet with throw pillows for the customers' comfort. However, it looked suspiciously Indian to me. But, hey, if you came here to dance, does it still matter?

Bom Bom

Unique for: The only artsy bar on the island that Bob Marley would have surely loved.

Famous for: The artists who come and play to the delight of their most foreign audience.

"No name."

"What," I asked.

"The bar with no name," he said.

"Huh?"

"It used to be the name of this bar. The Bar With No Name," he explained.

It had a name after all: But thanks anyway to whoever baptized the place as Bom Bom two years ago. The bar has been there for quite a while, but it was just recently that the owners decided to christen the place, Yolk Arias explained to me.

However, during that time, performances were limited to the Tribes Festival that Bom Bom held, during Holy Week. And then, performers started pouring in, and now, they are there to entertain everyone regularly.

The place is small, cramped actually but, thankfully, the performances are held outside where hammocks and seats are provided. The bar doesn't really boast of any particular specialty drink because, according to the owners, "everything on the menu is special,"

Hey Jude

Unique for: Cosmopolitan ambiance; real cool music provided by guest DJs.

Famous for: The drink Cosmopolitan, good music, superb pizzas and beautiful people.

How does the name "Rocky and the big Ny-oo" sounds like for a bar? Sounds too ethnic? People have to thank the uncle's owner, Rabin Sanda, for providing his nephew less time to explain what on earth is a Ny-oo (pronounced *nya-oo*).

"Well, Rocky and Ny-oo are two people I met while I was traveling to Burma. They're the nicest people that I've met," explains Christopher Jude Lee. "I didn't really want to name it after myself but my uncle did. But I really like it. I think it's very catchy."

Located at D'Mall, a part of Boracay with commercial shops and establishments, Hey Jude enjoys good exposure to the crowd that frequents the place. Only six months into operation, the bar looks like it is headed toward being the best bar in Boracay, if it's not considered that yet.

For the bar's concept, Jude drew inspiration from his experience working for the different bars in Miami. "When I came here, I felt that the bars were all the same. And so our team decided to bring in a new concept. I think that our style is really Miami-like." Aside from the ambience, the music is something Hey Jude must be proud of. With guest DJs coming in from all over the world, like Spain, Israel and India, the bar is at par with bars found in Manila and elsewhere around the world.

For day, their set consists of blues, chill-out, pop and reggae. At night, you just might find yourself dancing to progressive tunes, hip-hop and Latin music. And while you're at it, you might as well try their most potent drink, the Flaming Lamberdini—five different liquors blended into one. "It gives a nice kick in the butt," Jude adds.

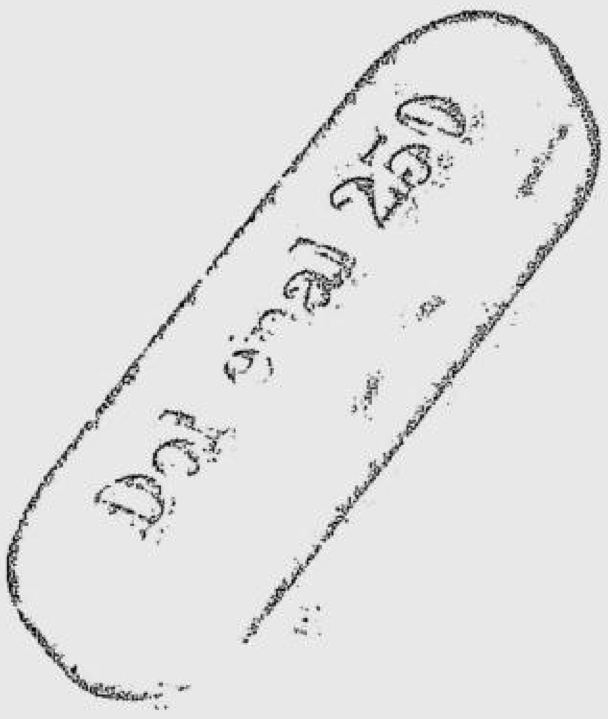
However, the best thing about the bar is something they never really intended to happen; Hey Jude is now famous for its pizza. Again, Jude has his uncle to thank for that.

CHILL out before raving hard late at night. Drop by Bom Bom for a soothing kind of music.

In Boracay nightlife, words take on different meanings—a mudslide is a mix of vodka, Kahlua and flavored ice cream, and a cosmopolitan is a blend of cranberry juice and vodka

BEACHCOMBER. Open-air partying by the beach

ENJOY the relaxing blend of good food, music and company at Hey Jude.



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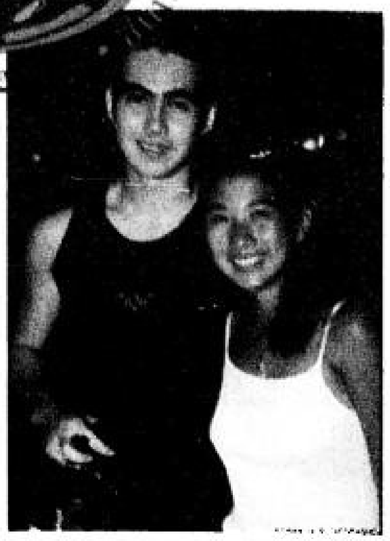
BIANCA loves the beach...and JJ Poe

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

ANONYMOUS on the beach were Paolo Cabalfin and Anne Matoto


FRESH PICKS. John Blaylock and Rica Yulo

Boracay nights sizzle as much as its days

YAPARAZZI

Tim Yap

"MTV Philippines is the benchmark of MTV here in Asia. All the other countries look up to us as a role model," said a jubilant **Francis Lumen** over breakfast at Pearl of the Pacific for the music channel's "Blazin' Bold in Boracay!" series of Smart cell phone-sponsored parties held recently at the summer capital of the south.

Finally, some good news—every day we are bombarded with events that make us cringe or worry where our nation is going. As far as the nation's youth are concerned, at least, there is progress—we are more idealistic, discerning and confident in ourselves. Let's hope that everything gets resolved before anything gets out of hand. Look at Senator Motormouth—let's not be like that.

Now, back to my summer escape. At the Boracay beachfront, bikini-clad beauties and the mini-hunks that adore them all lounged around, carrying San Miguel beer as they observed the sizzling sunset, with the fab chill sets of Music One's **Anton Ramos**, who was drawing crowds like a bohemian Pied Piper with his music.

To some, the sunset sessions were the hazy highlights of the MTV party series.. To others, sunset 'was just a prelude to the night's events—whole nights of techno fests, R&B groovin' and Latino salsa beat banging.

The first and second nights had DJ **Mumph** taking reign, alternating with Planet Mars R&B disc jockeys on the beach. Topping it off were layers and layers of oozing foam. Yup, a sand, saltwater and detergent bubble festival ensued, complete with skimpily-clad bouncing babes on the ledges.

MTV executives from New York and Singapore flew in for the event, all enjoying the island's white, white sand and native hospitality.

Island spice

Every afternoon with the whole island awake, shopping, island adventure hopping and food tripping transpired. Smart's savvy PR team led by **Mon Isberto**, **Nick Wilwayco** and **Ruth Tadeo** were our amiable hosts, who all spoiled us rotten. Island favorites were Jonah's for the shakes, True Food for the spicy Indian fare, Banza for Portuguese and Gorio's for the crepes. While it is true that there are a lot of newly discovered beach vacation spots in the country, nobody can beat Boracay's gastronomic treats. The island's savvy selection of world cuisine could rival any Philippine city's food offerings.

Kudos go to Hey Jude! at D'Mall side of the island. To some, this is the island's first and last stop for the night. Aside from its to-die-for pizzas and cosmopolitans, the music pulsates the whole night.

Café Del Mar's **DJ Bruno** loved this place so much that he even stayed longer, playing salsa sets to the delight of islanders and Manila partyphiles alike. We also passed by Studio 23 Myx parties on the island at Hey Jude! and Summer Place.

The Smart-MTV party could not have been held at a better time. It was just a week after the Lenten break, and the island was quiet. One had the choice of having a quiet chill moment, sipping margaritas on the beach, or partying all night with friends, or hopping from one to another of the night's various events, with veejays, beach bohemians and sazzy celebs as company.

A stark contrast to the week before, when the whole world decided to land on Bora's shores. So indeed, everyone was there—you would have thought that you were strolling around Rockwell if not for the sand. As my yoga teacher **Antonio** put it, "That week I saw everyone in Boracay, I was surprised not to see my *lola* there, too."

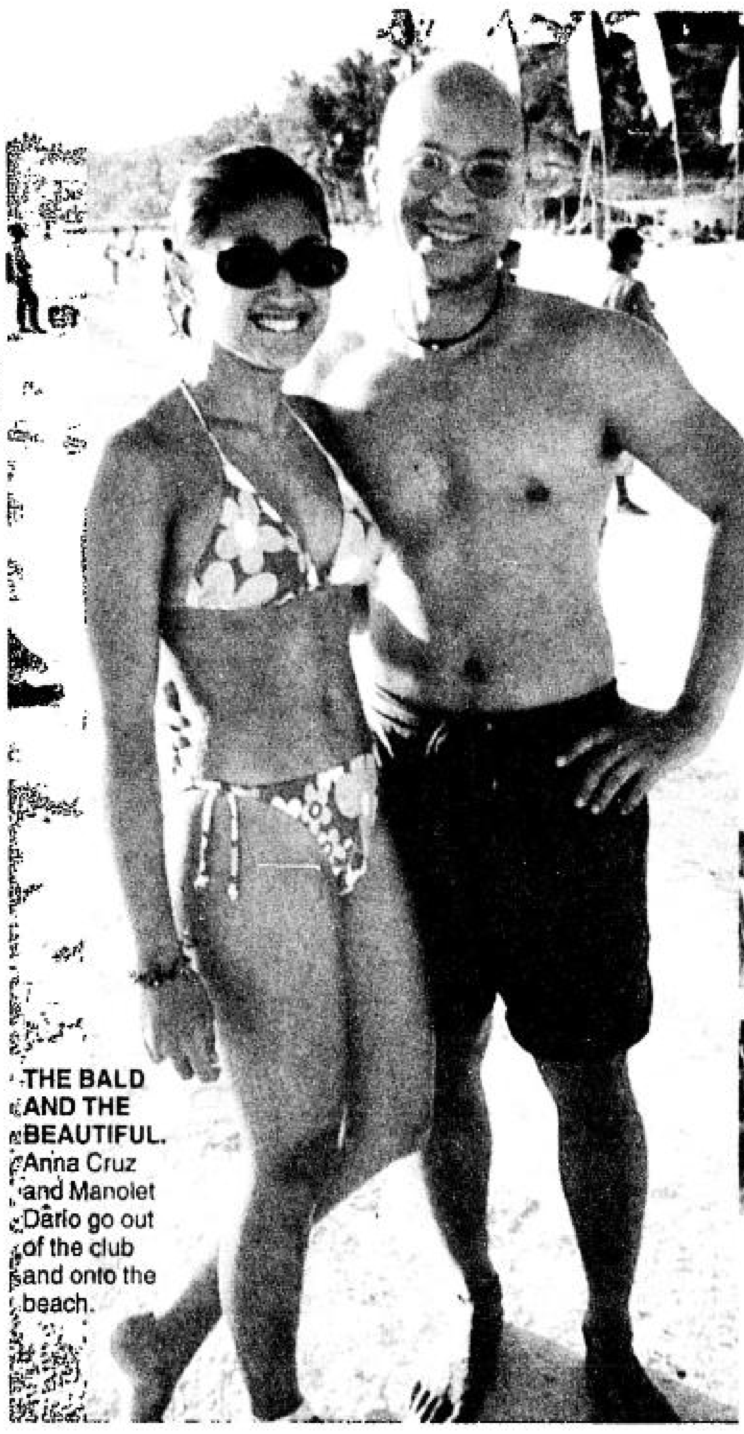
Now how's that as a benchmark?

SUNNY smile from Paolo Tantoco

SUN-KISSED sensation Joey Mead

PUFF DADDY. MTV main man Francis Lumen

CHILL MASTER. Anton Ramos at one of his sunset sessions


THE BALD AND THE BEAUTIFUL. Anna Cruz and Manolet Dario go out of the club and onto the beach.

FOLLOW THE CURVE. Chris Petersen and Avi Siwa

TODD and Miles at Summer Place

SLIPPERY WHEN WET. MTV's Vanessa Mayuga and Anne Matoto

BORACAY bonding for Jay Tugas and Maureen Brennan

WHITE NIGHT. Jun Poblador and Mandala Spa's Louise at Hey Jude!

WEAR SUNSCREEN. DJs David Jacob and Mumph get fried.

BALD STAR. VJ KC Montero gets ready.

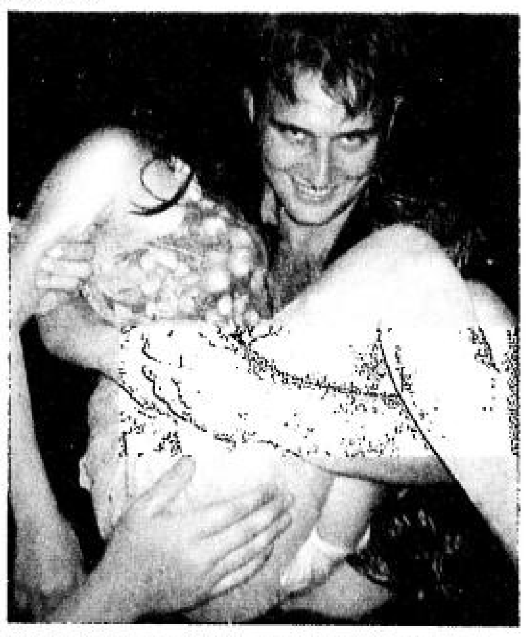
FASHIONISTA VJ Sarah Meier pouts her way to stardom.

JET SET. Marco Lobregat surfs it up.

BEACH BUMS. Hey Jude! Here with Nino Zulueta and Café Del Mar's DJ Bruno

WHITE LADIES. Rocio Lobregat, Carla Tabuena and Kat Velayo

FLEX IT. Phoebe at the MTV Foam Party!


CATCH OF THE DAY. Dracula 2001 strikes.

MTV's version of a giant washing machine

"A SUNBURN, for remembrance."**—Paula, 19**
"Souvenirs. I haven't gotten any yet, but I'll probably get a shirt."**—Alfonso, 19**
"White sand in your pocket."**—Marian, 19**
"A sunburn and a nice tan to remember your vacation."**—JayJ, 21**

Survey . . .

(From page D1)

"A sunburn. I want to let *everyone* know I went to Boracay."**—Irene, 19**

"Doing the 15 shots over at Moondogs. I already did it. People should try it."**—Marc, 19**

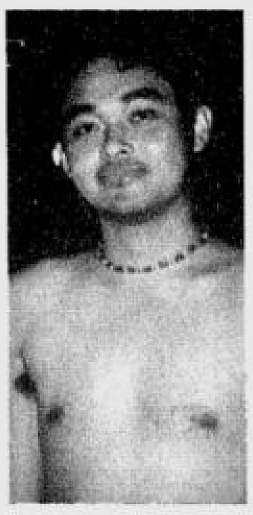
"The peaceful, relaxing state of mind you develop in the island. It will help you survive through stressful times until your next vacation!"**—Chinggay**

"A massage while drinking Jonah's melon shake, and enjoying the sunset."—Celeste, 19

"Three things: Trying the *liston manok*, mango crepe and banana shake!"**—Teenav, 25**

"Without getting a henna or tattoo at Noel's tattoo studio in Talipapa, a banana melon shake at Jonah's, a coconut killer at Coconut Killers and a massage!"**—Angela, 19**

"HANGING out in Bom Bom. It's a cool place, the sounds are nice and the music is different."**—Pam, 19**
"Going to Bom Bom and just chill."**—Cindy, 20**
"Sailing, because my friends met some people and they went sailing for free. And I wanna go also!"**—Angel, 19**



"TRYING out the banana boat. We rode it once and fell off twice."**—Mike, 23**

"GETTING high. It's the right environment to get high, not like in the city. There's a certain freedom to it. And, of course, you also meet people."**—June, 22**

"HAVING fun and meeting a new girlfriend."**—Dennis, 24**
"Mango shake. It's *sarap*, very fresh."**—Lino, 23**

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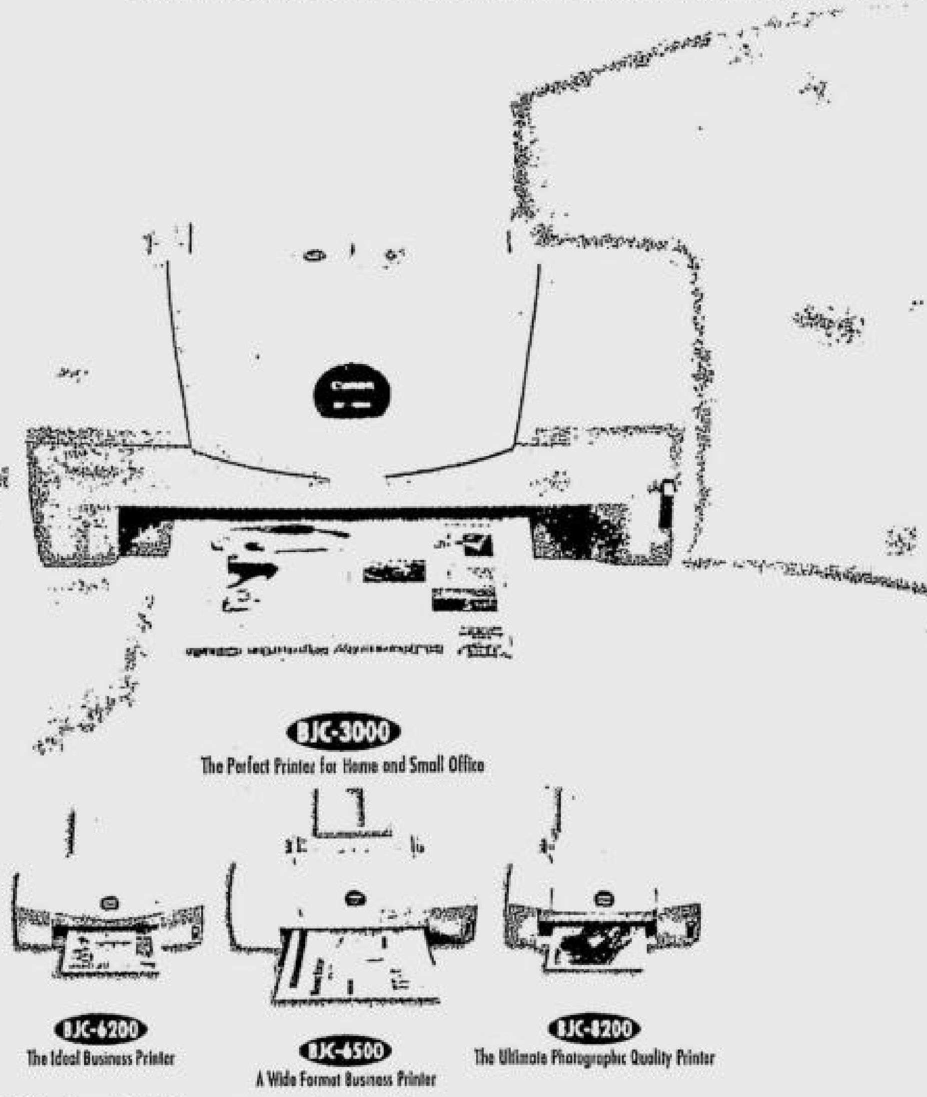
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5. A total of 4 weekly raffle draws will be held at the Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. head office located at Marvin Plaza Bldg., Pasong Tamo, Makati City at 5 p.m.

Deadline for Submission of entries	Raffle date	Weekly Draw Prizes
April 29	May 2	25 winners of Siemens M35
May 6	May 9	30 winners of Siemens A36
May 13	May 16	40 winners of Nokia 5110i
May 20	May 23	50 winners of Nokia 3310

6. A participant can only win once during the promo period.
7. All non-winning entries will be qualified for the succeeding weekly draws and for the grand raffle draw.
8. The Grand draw will be held on June 1, 2001 at Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. head office at 4 p.m.
GRAND DRAW PRIZES:
2 winners of Siemens SL45
2 winners of Ericsson R380
8 winners of Nokia 8250
9. Winners will be notified via registered mail and telephone. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
10. Claim period is within 60 days after receipt of notification letter from Canon. Prizes not claimed within the 60-day period shall be forfeited as per DTI's prior approval.
11. Prizes can be claimed at the Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc. head office or at Canon provincial offices specified in the notification letter.
12. To claim the prize, the winner must present at least one valid ID (driver's license, company ID, passport), original proof of purchase (official receipt or sales invoice), and the warranty card.
13. Employees of Canon Mktg. (Phils.), Inc., Dentsu Young & Rubicam-Alcantara, and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
14. Promo period is from April 23 2001 to May 23, 2001 only.

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BOUNCING babe Kate Cortez goes peek-a-boo on the beach.

WET,WET,WET. Foamy pair goes all out.

GETTING jiggy with Tina Cueto.

LIVE SHOW. Japs Treopaldo goes all white.

KC Montero walks like an Egyptian.

Fashion completes Boracay wet-'n'-wild experience

By Tim Yap
Photos by Jon Jon Rufino

SO you think beach fashion is all about sarongs and bead bracelets? Wrong. This summer peak season's Boracay getaway showcases a whole range of prints and accessories that make going to the beach a wet-'n'-wild experience.

From breakfast to afternoon chill or savvy sports activities, the island bursts with color and vibrance, as sea and sky merge in one bluish green hue, broken only by the deep yellow orange of the sunset.

Evening, the parade shifts to Boracay's nightspots as partyphiles jump from one sizzling venue to another. While the night crowd gyrates on the beach, the stars shine bright dispelling the darkness of a moonless sky.

At the MTV-Smart parties all over the island, from Pearl of the Pacific to Cocomangas, islanders and urbanites bump and move in one groove—the island beat is well and alive.

If you are people-watching and trendspotting on the island, you will find bikinis and tankinis paired with drawstring pants, mini skirts and short shorts. For men, vests and wild printed shirts are de rigueur.

Ultimately, the best fashion statement on the beach is a perfect tan (which, unfortunately, I don't have.) The best ammunition, suntan or sun block, whichever you prefer.

Anything goes, really. So while the photographer takes style snapshots of la vie Boracay boheme, let me enjoy my massage as I sip my fruit shake.

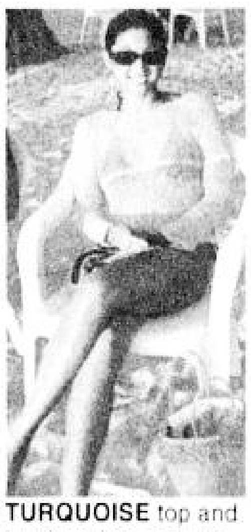
Ah, the life.

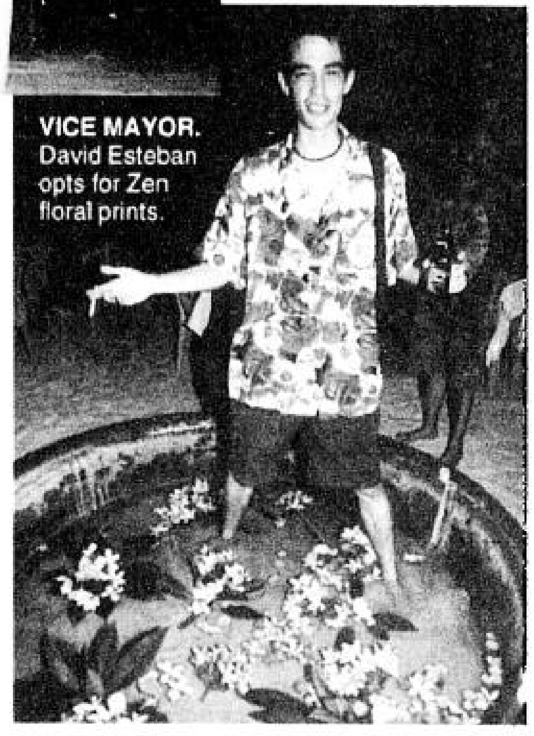
BABY blue hue on Miriam Quiambao

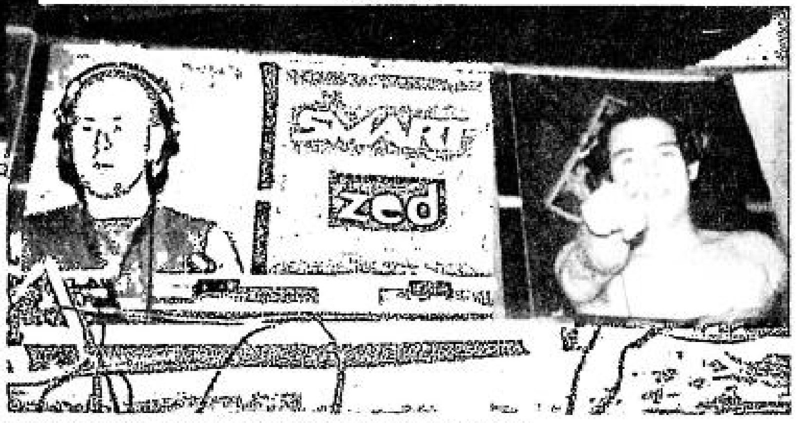
SOME GUYS HAVE ALL THE LUCK. MTV VJ Sarah Meier and Paolo Tantoco

GET SMART. Wear shorts and cap.

SPORTY action on the sand


TURQUOISE top and luscious legs equals Bora chic


VICE MAYOR. David Esteban opts for Zen floral prints.


MUSIC mix has DJs scattered all over the island.

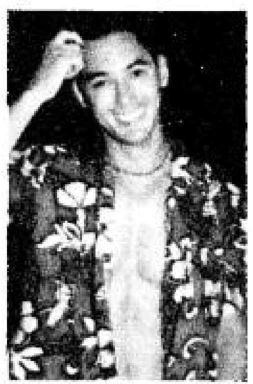
BABY tee with a twist

BACK ME UP. Partyphile shows off his Boracay tan.

OH,SANDY. He he he—I am making the best sand—uh, toaster!

PRINTS GALORE! Inside True Foods Indian Cuisine

GROOVE gear for the Eastwood sisters


UH, G'DAY, MATE! Greetings from Marc Nelson

FROTHÉ, anyone?

SHOW-AND-TELL time for Lampel Luis, Paolo Relucio and Dina Sarrugia

MTV mates Jam and Yciar Ledesma

ON THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK. Boracay buddies Joey Mead and Marc Nelson do the Boracay beach mambo. Ole!

More than just a bead shop

Text and Photos
By Maui V. Reyes

THERE is a bar in Boracay that stands out from the rest. Serving the same exotic drinks as the others, Bom Bom provides an extraordinary atmosphere that drowns out the stress of every person with every beat of the bongos and the music flutes make. The place creates its own world… far, far away from the raging techno parties surrounding the bar, where people lounge around with a beer in their hands, watching musicians tinker with their instruments as they come up with reggae/folk-flavored music, entwined with this magic that draws people to sit in.

The same holds true for the shop next door, where music and art combine harmoniously just like the toe-tapping at the bar that meets with each drum beat. That would simply be the Philippine Center for Art, Creativity and Consciousness.

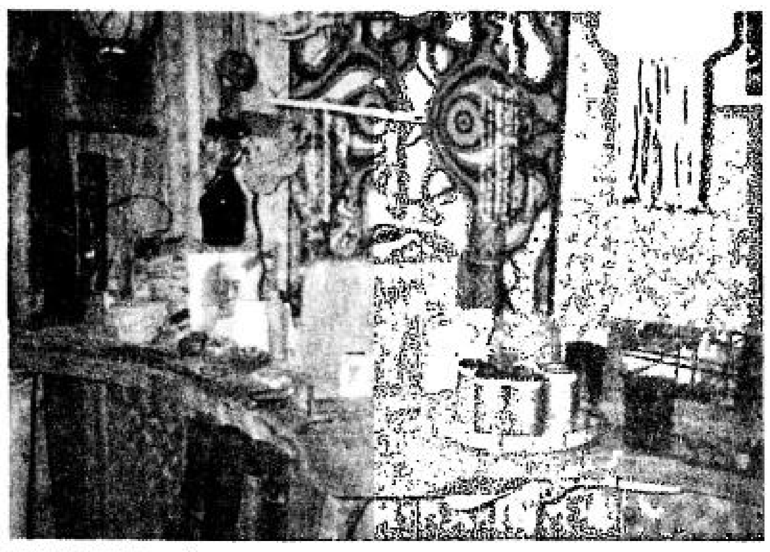
"We started [making stuff] in 1984… We were nomads from Bacolod. We came here and just started picking up shells, making necklaces and selling them on the beach," says founder Maria Lea Argel, whom friends call Mayang. "It wasn't a business to us, just a means of survival so we can send our children to school."

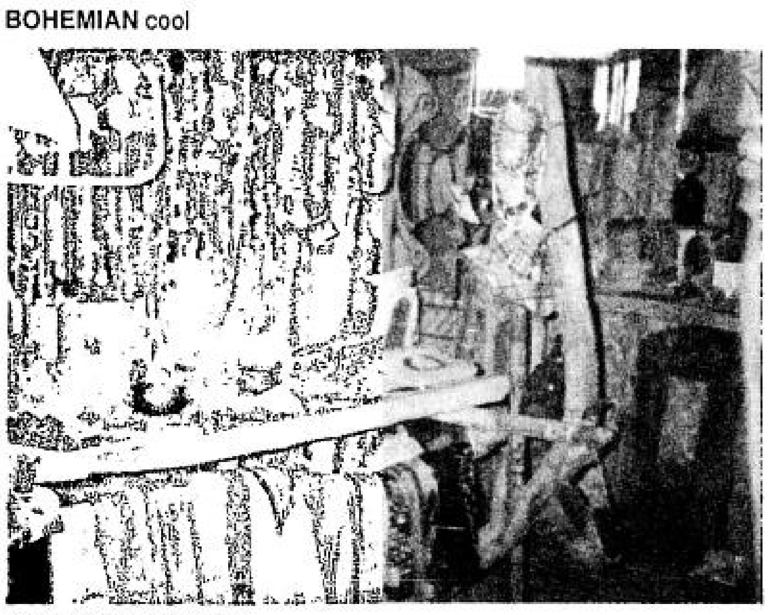
Today, the Philippine Center for Art, Creativity and Consciousness, a small, wooden store, has not only beaded accessories, but also splits with another owner (he's responsible for all the head-bobbing next door—the other owner is the singer at Bom Bom), who carries handmade bongos, congas and other native instruments that would make Cynthia Alexander proud. Sarongs are also sold, which double as wall hangings.

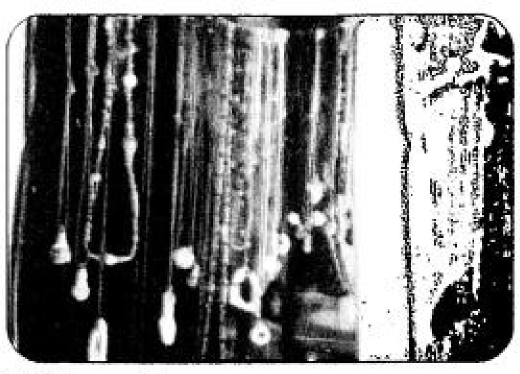
The center, which opened in 1996, shares two philosophies (hence the two owners who share the store), but both have the same vision: "to focus more on recycling anything we can put back into function. We take art and make it a way of life," says Mayang. "It's all about yourself, plus the object that you find, and you put in creativity… it's a process of integration, something you have to believe in."

Right now business is doing well in the bead shop—almost every item is dying to have you run your hands over. Pick up some wooden shakers and play a tune or try on the many beaded necklaces that they sell for reasonable prices. The wooden carvings and handmade accessories on display are attention-grabbers, as well as the silver picture frames sitting on wooden tables.

There's a little stall in Bacolod, but Mayang says Boracay is where they're stationed. She has no plans of expanding to Manila. Not that the city scares her. But what's the point of taking something so beautiful and unique off the island? Besides, the beads belong right here… right next to the folk music that streams into the tiny store.


BOHEMIAN cool


ACCESSORIES galore


TAKE your pick.

Fun on Boracay waters

By Pam Pastor

IF wading near the shore, sunning yourself and building sandcastles just doesn't cut it for you, fret not. Boracay has a lot of activities for people who are in dire need of that adrenaline rush.

Banana boat ride

"*Hindi na ako makakapag*-banana boat," I bawled minutes after my jet-skiing accident (more on that later). Sir Mon laughed and patted my arm. I had reason to cry. There was a scheduled ride for the correspondents again that afternoon. The previous day, Jason, Maui, Sir Mon and I had a blast on the banana boat. It was the ride of a lifetime.

The banana boat ride requires at least four willing individuals. Hop on (climb on, actually, is the more appropriate term) the "banana boat" and hold on to the metal bar in front of you. The point is to try and balance yourselves so you will not fall off. Sounds like an easy feat? Not when the people driving the speedboat make it their lives' mission to throw you off.

The speedboat will start to pull the banana boat along. Like everyone else who has tried it, you would probably clamor for more speed, since you would begin very s-l-o-w-l-y. We were even waving our arms in the air, posing and cracking jokes.

Give it time. Just seconds later, you will be screaming your head off.

It's important to make sure the person in front has a good sense of balance. He or she can be your "leader." In our case, it was Sir Mon. He was excellent. Our group, according to the people in the speedboat, was one of the few that did not fall off. And they really tried to get us off balance.

When the speedboat turns right, lean to your right. When it turns left, lean to the left. Just keep that in mind and you'll do fine. It's also important to bend down. It's so much easier to maintain balance that way. I noticed that the few times I almost fell off, I was sitting upright.

The speedboat will go fast and slow, fast and slow, trying to catch you off-guard.

Another enemy is the saltwater. Since you wouldn't be allowed to wear sunglasses (they might fall off easily) and I'm sure you wouldn't be caught dead wearing goggles when you're out of the water, you have no choice but to brave the water splashes. Close your eyes, although that would make keeping an eye on the speedboat difficult. Chances are, you'll be squinting almost the whole time.

If you're really about to fall, don't cling on. The safest thing would be to let go.

I heard that Tim and the others got thrown off completely. Everyone was drenched when they got back to the shore.

Jason said as we were roaring off, "*Parang hindi kumpleto 'pag hindi tayo nahulog.*" Getting soaked might make things a bit more interesting, but just the ride itself is already a worthy experience.

Even kids can go on the banana boat. It's probably the most taxing for the person assigned to stay in the speedboat to take photographs. Poor Ruth got a terrible case of seasickness—all in the desire to get action shots.

Jet-skiing

Jet-skiing is my heaven on earth. It quenches my need for speed and gives me freedom unknown on land.

When I ride I feel closer to nature—with the wind whipping my face and hair, the waves rocking, everything around me picturesque—beautiful.

It also gives you a feeling of power—a sense of control.

And it's fairly simple—way easier than riding a bike (I should know; I still need training wheels to this day).

Put on your life vest—sunglasses would also be good to shield your eyes from the intense light and saltwater. Climb on the jet ski. Make sure the safety strap is attached to your wrist. This will ensure an automatic stop in case you fall off—making sure that your jet ski doesn't fly off alone, avoiding possible injuries. Push the start button once and press the accelerator hard once and then let it go gently, but not completely. Make sure your hand is steady—for a smooth ride. Start with a moderate speed if you're not yet confident. Move on to a higher level when you feel that you're ready.

I have to warn you: it can be very addicting. Succumb to its charms—but don't be careless.

Follow the rules—make sure you stay within the boundaries. Racing is for professionals. Avoid diving areas and parts of the water where people are swimming.

At the risk of sounding preachy, allow me to give you a few reminders. The ocean is not a place for rowdiness. The water is not a playground—and the jet ski is not a toy.

This I learned the hard way.

To go jet-skiing in Boracay, a speedboat would fetch you from the shore and bring you to a bamboo raft in the middle of the ocean. This is where the jet skis are docked. On our second day of jet-skiing, we rented three skis. Since the third jet ski wasn't ready yet, Jason, Tammy, Maui and Happy got on the first ones and sped off. I was waving and screaming at them from the raft: "Guys, '*wag kayong magdikit! Delikado yan!*"

I should have listened to my own advice.

I got on the third jet ski and started enjoying the waves. I saw another jet-ski far behind me. Just seconds later, the jet ski sped up and collided with mine. The other jet ski hit my hip, sending me flying into the ocean. The moment I hit the water, I felt a sharp pain on my left hip. I tried kicking in the water—I could move. I was thankful. The next few moments, my vocabulary was reduced to just one word. "Ow!" I mumbled endlessly, "Ow, ow, ow, ow..." The people minding the skis naturally rescued the precious jet-ski before me. When they finally helped me climb back on, I decided to ignore the throbbing pain. I went around the raft a couple of times. I knew that if I quit at that moment before riding again, I might never get back on again.

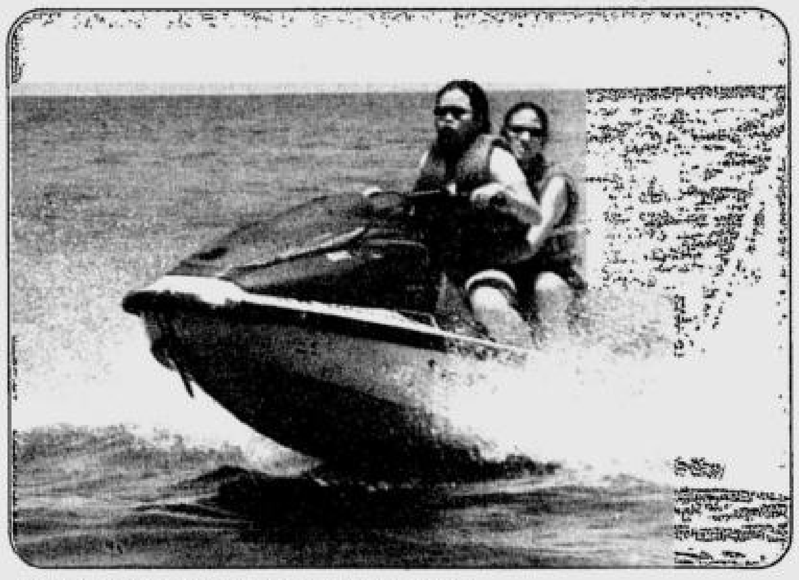
I now have a purple bruise on my left hip that's bigger than my hand, a smaller one on my left arm and another one on my right thigh. They're healing nicely, though, thanks to my medication.

The accident has made me realize the need for cautiousness and constant presence of mind. Okay, I've learned my lesson. Now I can't wait to ride again.

It's okay to have fun on the water, but always be cautious. You want to go back to the shore in one piece, don't you?

The banana boat ride costs P130 per person. Jet-skiing is P1,000 for 30 minutes and P1,800 for an hour.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph



THE AUTHOR and Maui riding the waves.

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Super Sarah's more than just a pretty face

By Maui V. Reyes

Model, VJ, scriptwriter and humanitarian—is there anything this rocker girl *can't* do?

"MTV says I dress too punk rock," 19-year-old Sarah Meier says. It's evening in Boracay, and the tall (5'11") MTV VJ is sitting under a starlit sky, discussing her wardrobe. "They want me to tone down a bit... which is why I'm wearing flowers now, look! Courtesy of Urban and Co.," she says, laughing.

To say Sarah's life is as bright as her ensemble is an understatement. This versatile talent (model, VJ and scriptwriter) has done print and broadcast ads, and delivered our daily dose of music videos faster than we could shout, "I want my MTV!" And unlike some of the past and burnt-out models that walked the runway and graced the green-screened studios of MTV, this chick actually has a brain.

"Everything just started snowballing," the brainy babe says. Starting at age 13, she did commercials and print ads on weekends to earn extra shopping money. When things started to roll, Sarah went with the flow although, according to her, "I never really wanted to be a model... but it just happened."

How she got her MTV gig is a more interesting story. When her manager was arranging the 4th Supermodel of the World Philippines contest, Sarah worked on the script. With her killer looks and awesome writing, it was a no-brainer to cast her as the host of the contest. And who would be sitting in the audience but an MTV scout, who was immediately struck by her talent? "I got a call from MTV Singapore two weeks later, and that was it!"

Life, food and music—these are what she's passionate about at the moment, according to Sarah. And while we have yet to see her doing her VJ thing at, oh, maybe MTV US (we can dream, right?), it might not be too farfetched to imagine her producing shows and holding book-signing sessions for her own New York Times best-selling novel.

2bu! gets to know the unknown beach bum, music lover and affectionate side of MTV VJ Sarah Meier.

You're only 19 and already you've accomplished so much!

See, that's it. I stopped going to school because I started spending most of my time modeling outside the Philippines. I don't know. It was coming to the point where I was thinking about going back to school, but then MTV made me an offer. All these things just came at the same time. I mean, [people] from New York were asking me to model for them, but MTV is a more stable job. The modeling world of New York is just too dangerous for me. It's not my type.

Think you can make the cut in MTV US?

Well, MTV New York and Miami are here, so I'm just gonna try to suck up. (Laughs) "Hey, if you guys need me!" (Laughs) No, but I don't know. I'm already grateful for being on MTV Asia. I wanna go into communications, anyway, so if I'm too old to be a VJ I'll move into production.

You host the show "MTV Lokal." Who are your favorite local acts?

There is a lot, but like, the top three would be Parokya ni Edgar, Barbie's Cradle and Brownbeat All-Stars.

You also do interviews on the show. Who was the most interesting person you interviewed?

Not a Filipino group, but Collective Soul when they were here. It was my first interview ever and they just happened to be a rock band that everybody loved when they were... um...

Back during "Shine," circa 1994?

(Laughs) Yeah. It was weird. You think, "Rockstars? Whatever!" I had them stereotyped, but when I met them they were actually very accommodating. [As for] local artists, the Eraserheads. They're true artists. They're just on another level. You're sitting there like, trying to have a conversation and they're sticking their tongues out, licking the microphone. It's cool. Next week I've got Sharon Cuneta and True Faith. So I'll get back to you in case they are more interesting. (Laughs)

Let's say you were never a VJ. You never got into modeling. What would you be doing?

Probably in Europe taking up journalism, sociology, psychology, communications or advertising.

And the best thing about being a VJ?

This! I mean, I don't know... the special treatment? I'm just really happy to have this job, but it's the little things like flying you to Boracay... This is work for us. This is the hardest it gets. You can imagine what "work" we do back home. I've got great cohosts. KC and Belinda are the funniest. It's so much fun. It's seriously sooooo much fun!

You said you like writing...

You know, I've never really gotten the chance to, like, really put my skills to use. I've always wanted to write but they always wanted me to be a model.

Doesn't that piss you off?

It does! Because everyone knows models are stereotyped. I guess there will be a time when all these celebrities will have a column, and I don't want to be categorized as just another one of them. No offense, if there's anyone on your staff. It came to a point when I got really fed up. Like this "Supermodel" script. I told them not to mention I wrote it because that's not what I'm looking for. When you're writing, you're not looking for recognition. I mean, sure, you want people to appreciate your work, but not like, "Oh, yeah. I am a model. Yes, I have a brain!"

Do you see yourself writing a novel?

Everybody does, right?

What would it be about?

I have no idea what it would be about. My imagination is shut as of now. My entire world is about music right now.

What about life as a VJ?

(Cringes) It's so... show biz, you know. It's like, "Autobiography of my life as a VJ." (Shakes her head) Being a VJ is already such a commercial scene. It's show biz. This is like, I seriously never thought I'd be a model. I never thought I'd be anywhere on TV. My friends are all, "Oh, hey, VJ!"

So what *did* you want to be when you were young?

When I was 3 years old I had this little notebook and I'd write out like. . Basically, I'd write a commercial. So it was always advertising. I'll probably delve into that. Unless someone from NBC (Looks over my shoulder) or maybe. . Smart! Yeah, Smart! (Laughs)

Music is a big part of your life. Who were you listening to growing up?

Kylie Minogue. Like, with the one-sided ponytail. (Laughs)

Did you every try to dress up like the artist?

Oh no. I never did. I'd probably just, like, sing in the mirror with my friends. "Come on, baby, do the locomotion!" You know here, when you see pictures of other kids, they were dressed up like the New Kids on the Block. I never went through that stage. I listened more to my parents' music, like The Doors, Abba, Barbra Streisand.

Since you love music so much, what band out there does not deserve to be, well, out there?

S Club 7. I have nothing against boy bands. Their music is tolerable and I don't mind it. But S Club 7' (Shakes her head) I mean, their show? (Cringes) I was in Singapore [and watched their show there] They *need* a total image makeover.

Do you see yourself cutting an album in the future?

No! KC's coming up with an album. I could probably guest-rap. Be in his video? Probably not I'd just screw it up.

What video would you want to be in?

(Laughs) Oh my gosh... um... probably a Backstreet Boys video. Just for fun, just to say you were in a Backstreet Boys video. I don't know, man. Probably some rap artist. But I wouldn't fit in a rap video.

First time in Boracay?

No. I actually spent most of my growing up here. I lived in Hong Kong for a pretty long time, but every time we come back to the Philippines we come here because we have some property [here]. Other than Manila, it's my second home in the Philippines. I know a lot of the locals. I love this place to death.

Do you have any memories of Boracay you wanna share?

Well, everybody falls in love on the beach, all right. (Laughs) No, let's not go there! I just sleep on the beach a lot. Just waking up with, like, cats around me. Looking at the stars. Even in Puerto Galera, when it wasn't as crowded as it is now. I'd be sleeping and then, like, carabaos would be running, like, a whole herd. I'm a beach bum.

So how many bathing suits did you bring?

I got here yesterday, I'm leaving tomorrow and I brought four bikinis.

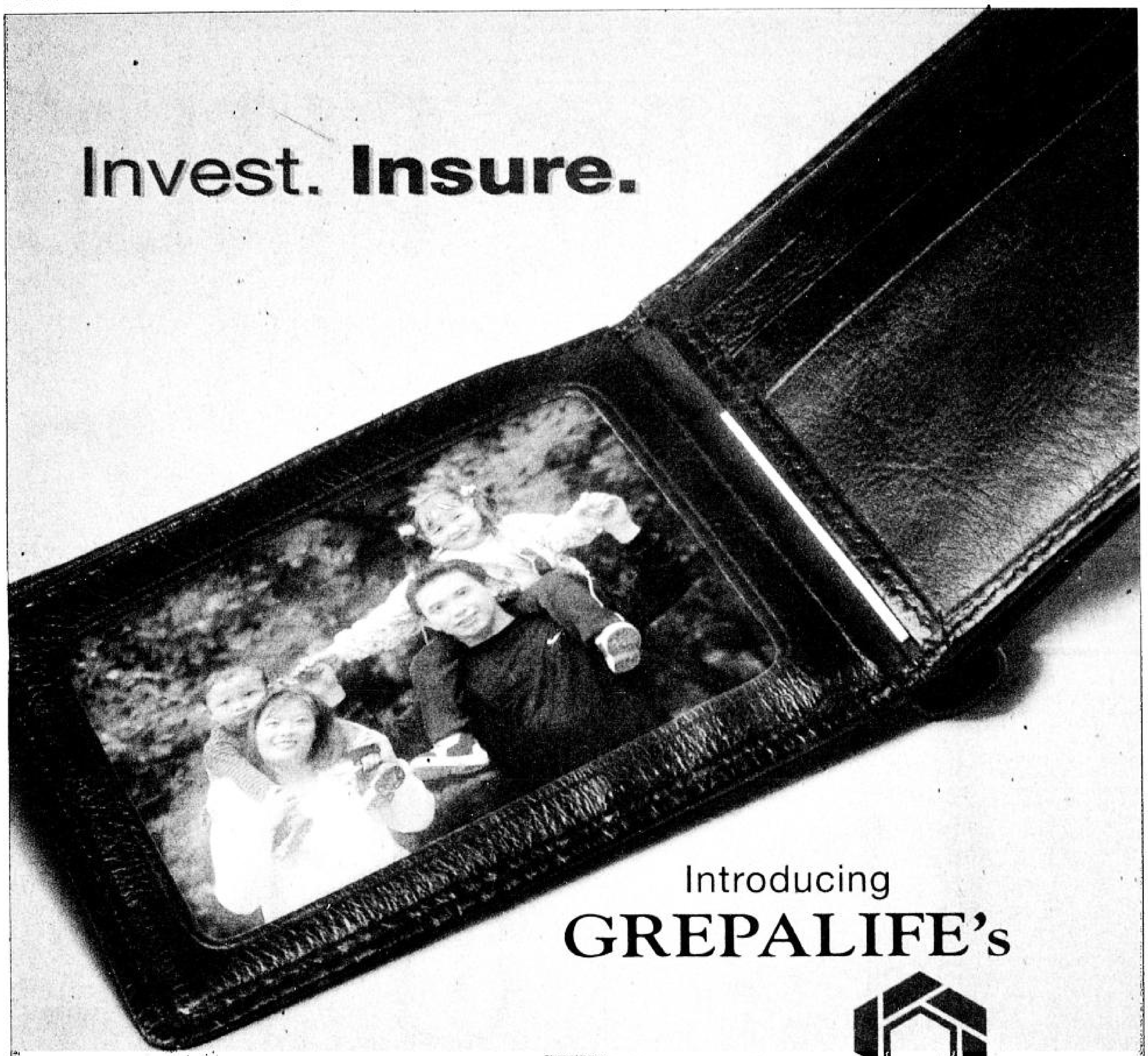
Sarah is the kind of girl you'd want to hang out with. As we talked, I realized I have pretty much a lot in common with this girl (okay, maybe not the Habitat for Humanity part and the giving-away-my-paycheck thing). It's sad people don't see all that.

"Everybody thinks I'm stuck-up and arrogant," she says. "If they ask me to eat rice and, I don't know, soy sauce, I would. I've spent half my life building houses for other people and giving my paychecks to people who really need them. Some people do this for image, I just do it because I *want* to."

Watch out, Superman—make room in that telephone booth for this girl! ***Additional reporting by Pam Pastor***

Since Boracay is Sarah's second home, we asked her to list the Top 10 things she loves most about the place.

1. The sand.
2. The stars.
3. The people—"they're different, they're so friendly, they're very understanding."
4. The food. "There's an Italian restaurant over there (points out). It's just... aaah!"
5. The hot guys in tiny shorts.
6. The horseback riding.
7. Parasailing.
8. Swimming in the beach.
9. Sailing. "Sounds boring, but I love it!"
10. Jet-Skiing.



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